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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Have you had your flu shot yet?

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Hot Festival
International visitors join a crowd of local revelers at the 7th Annual Tinian Hot Pepper Festival.

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'Free Libya'
Shouting "Free, free Libya," rebels brace for an attack by troops loyal to Moammar Gadhafi.

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"The King's Speech" is crowned best picture at the Academy Awards.

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DPH warns against whooping cough; urges vaccination. PAGE 6

Remains at Wireless Hill cemetery to be exhumed, reburied at Marpi cemetery

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Human remains at the Wireless Hill cemetery on Capital Hill will be exhumed and reburied en masse at the new $2.978 million Marpi public cemetery, the construction of which is expected to be completed by March 30 unless moved to a later date if another change order is executed.

The CNMI government under different administrations had planned for over a decade to build the new public cemetery, which has a potential to provide

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Shipping firms hike surcharge rate

» Stores brace for impact of fuel surcharge increase

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Retail stores and consumers in the Commonwealth are bracing for the impact of a fuel surcharge increase announced by two leading shipping companies in the wake of dramatic increases in fuel prices worldwide.

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Slaughterhouse project on hold

» 'Risk factors are too high'

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

The proposed slaughterhouse project in Lower Base that was supposed to jumpstart the agriculture and livestock industries in the CNMI has been temporarily suspended.

Businessman Anthony Pellegrino confirmed the temporary suspension in yesterday's interview, citing a number of risk factors that were identified after

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PROMOTION CEREMONY SPC. ANDRES REGINA

Sgt. Ricardo Quichocho, left, horses around as he congratulates Sgt. Joseph Villacrusis after a promotion ceremony held at the U.S. Army Reserve Center on Feb. 21. Others promoted were Sgt. Edward Chen and Sgt. Joseph Villacrusis, laundry and textiles specialists with the 302nd Quartermaster Company-detachment 1, who were promoted from specialist to sergeant. "I am excited to have been promoted and look forward to assuming my new duties as a non-commissioned officer within my unit," said Villacrusis.

Manta Ray Band is London-bound for 2012 Olympics

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Next stop: the 2012 Summer Olympics in London.

After performing at the 2008 Beijing Olympics nearly three years ago, Saipan Southern High School's Manta Ray Band has been invited to play at next year's quadrennial event, set in the capital of Great Britain.

The band's conductor and musical director, Will DeWitt, told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that the organizing committee for the 2012 Olympic Games has invited the group to play at the Summer Games, slated from July 27 to Aug. 12, 2012.

Manta Ray Band members will be among a few handpicked musicians from around the world that will make up the musical orchestra for the 2012 Olympics.

"It's very exciting!" said DeWitt, adding that he plans to send 50 band members.

DeWitt said only eight students were

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Local

Death threat vs Syed and his family

ByHAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The leader of a major nonresident workers' group and his family received a death threat on Saturday, two days after the United Workers Movement-NMI led a peaceful march to press Congress to grant improved immigration status to long-term foreign workers in the CNMI.

At the same time, the Senate Committee on Federal Relations and Independent Agencies chaired by Senate Vice President Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian) said yesterday they will finalize today their recommendation to Congress on the status of foreign workers.

The committee will be submitting their recommendation to Congress by the middle of this month.

Their draft recommendation is for the U.S. Congress to allow nonresident workers who have been in the CNMI for at least 10 years by May 2008 to apply for a status similar to those granted to Freely Associated States citizens. But they have to wait for five more years or until 2013 to apply for such status.

Hofschneider said they are reviewing the eligibility requirement in their recommendation, and the use of the term "FAS-like" status. The Department of the Interior recommendation to Congress in April 2010 also included FAS-like status among the options, along with U.S. citizenship or pathway to citizenship.

Rabby Syed, president of the United Workers Movement-NMI, confirmed yesterday that he received a death threat on Saturday from a male who called him on his cell phone.

"The man said if he sees me on Saipan, he's gonna chop my feet, he's gonna chop my neck and my hand, and he will kill me and my family. He said he will do this because of what I'm trying to do to help the Filipinos and the Bangladeshis," Syed said yesterday.

Syed said the landline used by the male caller appeared on his cell phone, but Syed asked the media not to publish the number at this time.

The leader of the worker group said the caller also introduced himself, but he could only recall the last name. He also asked that the last name be not published at this time.

When *Saipan Tribune* called the number yesterday, the woman on the other line said it's a residential line but there's no one by the last name given by Syed who lives in that house.

Syed said he immediately reported the incident to the Department of Public Safety and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

This is not the first time that Syed received hate calls and threats, but he said this was the first time that he got a death threat against himself and his family.

Syed said he has always been respectful of other peoples' beliefs and opinion on the immigration status of foreign workers in the CNMI.

"We may have differences in views and opinions but I respect them. But it's not acceptable to make death threats. My message to the individual who made the threat—nothing can stop me from speaking the truth. I speak on behalf of the alien workers, and we continue to ask the U.S. Congress to grant long-term foreign workers a pathway to citizenship or citizenship," he said.

Sex offender allegedly assaults woman at old radar station

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A convicted sex offender allegedly asked a woman to bring him to a secluded old radar station area in As Matuis where he allegedly threatened to "slaughter her" before trying to rape her inside a car last week.

The victim told police she managed to escape after she hit him in the left eye with the car key, forcing him to get down from the vehicle and giving her the chance to drive off.

Anthony Raymond Mendiola Camacho, 37, was served with an arrest warrant on Friday on charges of assault, assault and battery, disturbing the peace, sexual assault in the first degree, sexual assault in the second degree, indecent exposure in the second degree, and kidnapping.

Bail was set at $100,00 cash. Preliminary hearing will be on March 8 at 1:30pm.

Detective Peter A. Aldan stated in his report that the Department of Public Safety's central dispatcher received a call from the victim on Wednesday at 9:37pm. She reported that Camacho had tried to rape her at the old radar station area.

Aldan said preliminary investigation showed that on Wednesday at 5:30pm, the victim was walking to her car in Gualo Rai and when Camacho approached and asked her to drop him off at a residence in Tanapag. Before she could reply, the suspect got inside her car and sat in the front right passenger seat.

The victim initially refused, telling Camacho that she has to check on her children in Koblerville, but he insisted so she reluctantly agreed to bring him to Tanapag.

Upon reaching Tanapag, Camacho told the victim to drive the car toward Marpi. He then directed her to proceed to As Matuis until they reached the old radar station. At that point, Camacho grabbed the car key from the ignition and told her that someone instructed him to "slaughter" her because she tried to cheat on three alleged drug users. The victim said she does not know the three persons he mentioned.

Camacho then allegedly started to sexually assault her inside the car. The victim grabbed the car key and hit Camacho in the eye with it. This forced the suspect to get down from the car. The victim sped off, leaving him behind.

Conference committee on bill removing $250M price tag to privatize CUC

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The House of Representatives is expected to reject this morning the Senate's latest amendment to the bill scrapping the $250 million price tag to privatize the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., and a conference committee with the Senate will be called immediately.

Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan) and Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) said this after a meeting with House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) and other lawmakers yesterday.

Torres and Manglona said the House and Senate leaderships agreed to go into a conference committee to work out their differences on the bill.

The last time a conference committee was formed was to work on the fiscal year 2011 budget.

Torres said the speaker will be appointing him, Rep. Frank Dela Cruz (R-Saipan) and Rep. Ralph Demapan (Cov-Saipan) to the conference committee.

Manglona, for his part, said the Senate panel will consist of Sen. Juan Ayuyu (Ind-Rota), Senate floor leader Pete Reyes (R-Saipan), and Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian).

The Senate earlier recalled the bill, mainly because of further review needed to tighten the procurement process, including having the attorney general certify that a request for proposal is the most appropriate tool instead of an invitation to bid.

Torres said the House leadership objects to the Senate's amendments, which were the same ones cited by the governor when he vetoed a similar bill last year.

"What Senate is proposing is entirely different from the original bill. Senate reinstated what CUC has been asking to strike out. That's on the procurement and bidding process," said Torres, author of House Bill 17-114.

What the House will be acting on today is HB 17-114, Senate Substitute 1, Senate Draft 1, Senate Substitute 2.

Manglona, for his part, said the Senate wants to exempt independent power producers for renewable energy from the net metering law.

Torres said because the House could only either accept or reject the Senate-amended bill, the leadership decided to just reject it and work collaboratively with the Senate.

Both the House and Senate agree to remove the $250 million price tag to privatize CUC, but differ mostly on the procurement process.

The Senate wants strict procurement process. These include a provision stating that no contract shall be awarded pursuant to a request for proposals (RFP) unless the attorney general certifies that the RFP is the most appropriate procurement tool, and such RFP complies with CUC procurement regulations and all CNMI and federal laws.

The Senate also wants to require CUC to appoint a five-member independent review panel to evaluate bids. Gov. Benigno R. Fitial earlier said this "creates another bureaucratic layer which is unnecessary as CUC is already subject to CPUC [Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission] review."

Fitial had also said the Senate's insertion of another subsection may also discourage outside CNMI participation because of the prequalification requirement.

Manglona and Torres said both the House and Senate want the same thing—to get big renewable energy projects get off the ground.

CPA officials at Chamber meeting tomorrow

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will have its next general membership meeting on Wednesday, March 2, at Fiesta Resort & Spa's Azucena Room.

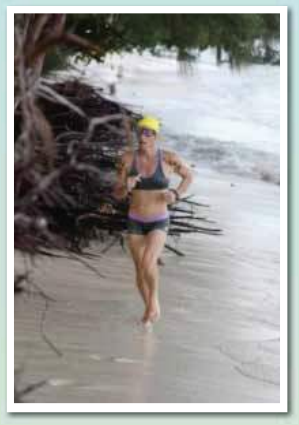
Edward M. Deleon Guerrero, executive director of the Commonwealth Ports Authority, and MaryAnn Q. Lizama, port manager and harbor mistress, are the guest speakers. They are expected to discuss how CPA is doing with respect to its bond covenant compliance, where CPA sees fees heading, current projects underway at all seaports and airports, future projects are in the wings, and other issues.

Chamber members will also welcome incoming executive director Richard Pierce.

Registration and lunch will begin at 11:30am, and the meeting will begin at noon. The meeting is $15 for members, $20 for guests of members, and $25 for the public. ***(SCC)***

A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority
Tourism is everybody's business.

March 2011 Sporting Events



The **Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA)** continues its work to expand sports tourism opportunities for the islands, as March marks the month that the MVA and its tourism partners host a series of major sporting events aimed at attracting visitors and international media attention.

The **6th Annual Saipan Marathon, Half-Marathon, and 10K** take place this Saturday (March 5) beginning at American Memorial Park at 4:30 a.m. with the full marathon, followed by the half-marathon at 5:45 a.m. and the 10K Fun Run at 6 a.m. 800 runners, mostly from Japan, have registered for the event, making it the largest running of the marathon, yet.

Meanwhile, registration is still open for three following events. **The 10th XTERRA Saipan Championship** takes place on March 12, featuring a 1.5km swim, 30K mountain bike race, and 12K trail run. The event, dubbed the Crown Jewel of the **XTERRA Tour**, will highlight the warm waters, pristine jungles and picturesque coastal roadways of the island. For those eyeing a shorter course, the **XTERRA Sunset Trail Run** will be held on March 11, 2011, at 5 p.m.

The last weekend of March will test the will of triathletes in the annual **Tagaman** triathlon, named for the legendary Chamorro chief who was fabled to have ripped a coconut tree from its roots in his youth. The Tagaman will feature a 2km swim, 60km bike, and 15km run.

Registration deadlines are March 9, 2011, for XTERRA Saipan Championship and XTERRA Saipan Trail Run, and March 16, 2011 for Tagaman. Visit the official website at www.saipansports.com to register.

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This Tourism Tuesday space is provided by Saipan Tribune

New law raises minimum educational qualification to become NMC regent

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Acting governor Eloy S. Inos signed into law a bill raising the minimum educational requirements for appointments to the Northern Marianas College's Board of Regents.

Under the newly-signed Public Law 17-33, at least three of the seven members of the Board of Regents should have a master's or a higher degree, and two members should have a bachelor's degree.

The other two members should have an associate degree "or comparable experience," a phrase that was a sticky point among lawmakers in passing the bill early this year.

The acting governor said he approved the bill "with reservations."

He said the measure may also be viewed as "too restrictive."

"While I appreciate the intent of the Legislature, this measure may be viewed as being too restrictive as NMC is not solely a college for bachelors programs, but also adult vocational education and professional development programs," Inos said in his Feb. 26 transmittal letter to House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) and Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota).

The acting governor added that regents with various educational backgrounds, "not necessarily bachelors, masters, or associate degrees, could provide insight from a different cross-section of the community."

The original bill underwent revisions before it reached the governor's desk.

House Bill 17-59, House Draft 1, Senate Draft 2 or "The Postsecondary Education Act of 1984" states that the regents should have higher qualifications in terms of levels of education "in light of NMC's overall status as an accredited institution with a four-year academic program in education."

Prior to the signing of this new law, the statute required only four regents to have a bachelor's degree or higher, while the three others were not required to possess a college degree, or finish high school or elementary school.

Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan), author of HB 17-59, said yesterday he's thankful to Inos for seeing the importance of his bill.

"I was happy when the Senate passed it too, though I didn't get all I wanted as stated in my original bill, but a compromise was reached. I'm happy that it's now a law, and I thank the acting governor for signing it into law," Torres told *Saipan Tribune*.

Torres' original bill requires that at least four of seven regents should have a master's degree, and the remaining three should have a bachelor's degree.

NMC is governed by a seven-member Board of Regents appointed by the governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate.

Of the seven regencies, only five are currently filled and two are vacant.

The governor has yet to appoint two individuals to fill in the vacancies left by Janet King and Paz Younis.

The current Board of Regents members are chairman Juan Lizama, vice chair Elaine Orilla, Andrew Orsini, Malua Peter, and Frank Rabauliman.

CUC: Central govt, PSS owe $3.8M as of January

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

As of January 2011, the central government and the Public School System owe the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. $3.8 million in utility bills, according to CUC legal counsel Deborah E. Fisher yesterday.

Fisher notified the federal court, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the Office of the Attorney General that the central government owes $2,524,198.80 for November 2010 through January 2011.

PSS, Fisher said, owes CUC $1,339,181.77 for the same period.

In response to EPA's inquiry, Fisher's report briefly discussed, among other issues, the late payments being made by the CNMI government to CUC.

She said these late payments continue to be a problem.

"The state of the Commonwealth economy is dire," she added.

The late payments issue may be discussed further during today's scheduled conference between CUC and EPA before the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

On the funding issue, Fisher welcomed EPA's proposal to create a work group and process relating to future potential funding and the re-allocating of existing federal funding available to the CNMI so that CUC will meet all EPA requirements.

Fisher said CUC is pleased to get the EPA letter that sets forth ideas for EPA and CUC to work cooperatively with stakeholders on the funding issue.

"CUC looks forward to this collaborative effort, which it hopes will help to bring solutions to the funding issues CUC is facing," she added.

EPA counsel Bradley R. O'Brien last week underscored the importance of creating an efficient process involving the numerous revenue and federal grant stakeholders to ensure that CUC and the CNMI can fund and timely meet the requirements of stipulated orders.

The EPA counsel said the work group could focus on the application, allocation, and re-allocation of federal funding and any other sources of funding available to the CNMI that will facilitate CUC's and the CNMI's compliance with the stipulated orders.

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US Navy to gauge readiness in anti-terrorism exercise

NORFOLK, Virginia (AP)—Navy sailors will suit up in battle gear and take up fighting positions at U.S. bases during the country's largest anti-terrorism exercise, an effort meant to gauge their response to multiple attacks, officials said.

Navy installations in the continental U.S., Guam and Hawaii will participate in Exercise Solid Curtain-Citadel Shield from today, Tuesday, through Friday, giving officials a snapshot of military readiness as the 10th anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks approaches.

The Navy plans to simulate real-world threats, incorporating lessons learned from the 2000 bombing of the Navy destroyer USS *Cole* and the 2009 Fort Hood shooting, among others.

Security officials will track scores of potential threats and sailors' responses to them from a control room at Naval Station Norfolk, the world's largest naval base.

The exercise will replicate a variety of possible scenarios, from an explosive going off on a Navy base to a bomb threat at a recruiting center. The public may see people in battle gear with guns, military dogs and fixed fighting positions manned at some bases.

"You want to train the way you fight, so if you don't make it real you're not getting the full training that you not only should get, you have to get out of it," said Capt. Sam McCormick, U.S. Fleet Forces director for fleet anti-terrorism.

ON HOLD

From Page 1

about five months of working on the project.

"I cannot find many good reasons for doing it, although there's a need for it. …I'm trying to jumpstart the economy. Unfortunately, my research says it's too dangerous," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Pellegrino's decision came after the Northern Marianas College-Cooperative Research Extension and Education Service conducted last month a livestock survey to determine the feasibility of the slaughterhouse project that would be beneficial for local farmers and ranchers.

Pellegrino disclosed that his decision was finalized after several interviews and discussions with various industry experts on and off-island.

"Two weeks ago, I saw that no matter how much I stretch it, I can't do it," he said.

According to Pellegrino, risk factors involving the planned Marianas Meat Harvesting Corp. include the availability of pigs, feed costs, and accessibility, shipping expenses, high utility rates, and federal regulations.

Pellegrino said the island does not have enough pigs and pig growers, which would make it difficult to produce 400 to 500 pigs a month to meet market needs.

Another challenge is the availability of just one breed of pig because of too much inbreeding, which results in very poor quality of meat.

"You have to have different families so when you reproduce, you get healthy products. We don't have those animals on Saipan. It's going to take maybe years, and a tremendous amount of investment, before we get to that point," said Pellegrino.

Since available pigs in the market are inbred, Pellegrino said these animals will be susceptible to viruses, which will be a big threat as many small pig farms on island are in close proximity, such that if one farm gets the virus, the rest of the pig farms could be wiped out.

"If there's a virus on pigs, we have no remedy, we have no injection, we have no quarantine station, no inspection place, no medicine for them," he said.

Pellegrino said the high cost of feeds and shipping them is another challenge, adding that ordinary pig slop or food surplus from hotels and restaurants are a "no-no."

"It would take 3-4 pounds of feed to make one pound of meat on a pig. It would take about $100 to get that pig in one pound because the pig is so expensive... the cost of feed is prohibitive," he said.

According to Pellegrino, the "exorbitant cost of utilities" would also be tricky to deal with in this economy.

He also cited federal regulations that require the presence of a food inspector every time an animal is butchered at the slaughterhouse. Pellegrino explained that the regulation can be restrictive since only one inspector is available on island and his absence would put the slaughterhouse's operation on hold.

"What if he got sick? What if he went on vacation? ...There are too many things and factors that I could not control, so I said no, it's not good," said Pellegrino.

Pellegrino disclosed that he already talked to NMC-CREES director Ross Manglona and animal scientist and livestock extension agent Dr. Allan Sabaldica about his decision and they will then inform the farmers.

He clarified, though, that the project is only "temporarily called off" but would revive it in the future should the circumstances become more favorable. "I haven't given up. Not at all," he added.

Despite his disappointment, agriculture consultant Isidoro T. Cabrera said he understands and respects Pellegrino's decision.

"The issues he brought up are things that need to be properly addressed. After evaluating all these, he had to make a decision," Cabrera told *Saipan Tribune*, adding that he remains hopeful that the issues will be dealt with in the future.

REMAINS

From Page 1

over 50,000 crypts for the next three centuries.

The first phase of the project, which is almost complete, includes the construction of 2,500 double crypts or double-stack occupancy crypts for a total of 5,000 burials. This contract was awarded to Maeda Pacific-Saipan.

Acting governor Eloy S. Inos said the government's plan is to totally close the Wireless Hill cemetery once the construction of the new Marpi cemetery is completed.

He said regulations on health, water, and sanitation, as well as on maintenance of public cemeteries are now being worked on, in time for the completion of the new cemetery and the long-time planned exhumation of remains at the Wireless Hill.

"Once that's done, they will start moving the remains, or exhume or dig, from the Capital Hill cemetery or the Wireless Hill cemetery. The plan is to take all those remains there, to down there [in Marpi] so that Wireless Hill would no longer be a burial ground," Inos told *Saipan Tribune*.

As of this time, there's no telling when the actual exhumation will occur and who would actually do it.

Dr. Ignacio Dela Cruz, secretary of the Department of Lands and Natural Resources, said yesterday that DLNR personnel are supposed to maintain the new Marpi cemetery when its construction is completed.

But Dela Cruz said DLNR is already short-staffed and under-funded to begin with, posing a challenge to the department.

"We don't have enough manpower and funding for the maintenance of the new cemetery. We can hardly keep up with our regular duties. Without funding support, what can we do?" the DLNR secretary said.

Besides DLNR, the Department of Public Health and the Department of Public Works are involved in the formulation of the regulations, maintenance, and operations of the new cemetery.

Maeda Pacific-Saipan bagged the $2.96 million contract last year to build the new Marpi public cemetery.

The original completion date was supposed to be yesterday. But an $18,000 worth of change order moved the completion date to March 30 and raised the contract amount to $2.978 million.

Cleto Samonte, Maeda Pacific-Saipan general manager, said a second change order worth $41,000 has been partially executed and a third change order is awaiting approval.

The first change order involved the construction of additional concrete sidewalk connecting a pavilion to the public restroom.

The second change order includes the construction of a concrete swale.

Samonte said the third change order involves landscaping.

Inos said the contractor is ahead of schedule. Samonte said the acting governor was probably referring to the early construction of the lawn crypt, which was supposed to be completed in December but was completed in October. This is the major part of the project.

Samonte said another thing holding up the completion of the entire project are some federal wildlife issues, before they could install power poles from the Buddhist temple area to the new cemetery. He said this issue is being addressed.

Rep. Sylvester Iguel (Cov-Saipan), meanwhile, said his House Bill 17-118, which seeks to provide for the care, maintenance and supervision of public cemeteries, has yet to pass the Senate after clearing the House.

Inos and other government officials led the groundbreaking for the new Marpi public cemetery on June 28, 2010.

At an estimated 150 burials a year, the first site will serve the CNMI for nearly 33 years.

The total cemetery area is 18 acres, and the whole area has the potential to accommodate more than 50,000 crypts, "or sufficient for the next three centuries," officials had said.

Building a new public cemetery in Marpi has become a necessity due to overcrowding at other existing public cemeteries such as the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

The CNMI Capital Improvement Projects Office received federal funds from the U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs for the project, which is just beside the Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Marpi.

MANTA RAY BAND

From Page 1

sent to the 2008 Olympics due to funding issues. This time, he's optimistic that more members will join the trip as they have more time to raise the money needed.

DeWitt said preparations for the 2012 Olympics trip already started this month, including fundraising for the group's tickets. He estimates the band will need about $200,000 for the delegation's fare.

Last Saturday, the group held its first fundraiser—a garage sale. More fundraising activities are lined up in the next few months.

DeWitt, who was not able to join the band at the 2008 Beijing Olympics, said he's looking forward to this trip to London.

"We're very humbled [by the invitation]. I've never been to an Olympics ceremony…and I am looking forward to this trip with the group. With the larger window of preparations that we have, I am optimistic that we can raise the needed funds to make it happen," he said.

DeWitt expressed confidence that Manta Ray Band will do well in London. He said a special audition will be conducted for alumni band members who want to join the Olympic performance.

"The Manta Ray Band will serve as ambassadors of the CNMI or the region…and our goal is to keep representing the highest level for the world to know the many great things that are happening here in our small island," said DeWitt.

The Manta Ray Band, the only high school musical program in the Commonwealth, has never failed its audience. This month, the Manta Ray Band will compete in the Tumon Bay Musical Festival in Guam where it bagged the gold medals in 2007 and 2008.

In April last year, it won silver in the prestigious international music competition in New York City. The Manta Ray Band has also performed at the Sydney Opera House in Australia.

The Olympic Games in London includes 26 sports and some 10,500 athletes from around the world are expected to participate.

SHIPPING

From Page 1

On Feb. 27, Horizon Lines and Matson Navigation Company increased their fuel surcharge rate by 4.75 percentage points for shipping freight between the U.S. mainland and Guam/CNMI.

Matson first made the announcement to increase the fuel surcharge from 23.25 to 28 percent last Jan. 29. David Hoppes, senior vice president for ocean services, said the move was Matson's first increase in its fuel surcharge since Feb. 7, 2010.

"Unfortunately, fuel prices have been rising dramatically over the past several months, necessitating this new upward adjustment. Fuel costs comprise a substantial component of Matson's operating costs and are an unavoidable expense for transporting goods. Bunker fuel costs are currently approaching the highs last experienced in 2008, when the company's fuel surcharge was in excess of 30 percent," Hoppes said.

After four days, Horizon Lines mirrored the increase, also hiking its fuel adjustment factor for its Micronesia services from 23.25 to 28 percent.

"Horizon Lines will continue to closely monitor fuel costs and will adjust the Fuel Surcharge as trends warrant," said the company in its service announcement.

Daniel A. Taitingfong, local manager for Payless Super Market, San Jose Mart, 99 Cents supermarket, and Townhouse Department Store, said the fuel surcharge hike will "drastically affect" their cost of operations.

Except for the Townhouse Department Store, all their stores operate 24/7, with Payless alone having about 40 employees.

"It's going to be a major factor as far as prices are concerned," Taitingfong told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday at their Payless location.

According to Taitingfong, their stores receive in a month about 30 to 50 containers from the U.S. mainland, Korea, and the Philippines.

Once they receive new shipments within the week, Taitingfong disclosed that they would have to see the effect of the fuel surcharge hike on their shipping costs and "adjust prices accordingly."

"If we maintain the same prices for our commodities, it will be difficult for us to maintain our operations. We will have to adjust whatever is the cost of bringing those items in," he said.

Jose Tenorio, wholesale manager for JC Tenorio Enterprises, which has been operating on island for 62 years in May, said they had expected the fuel surcharge hike following the increase of fuel costs as well as notification from the two shipping companies, which they use for all Joeten stores.

"This is going to affect our prices because you have to tie in shipping costs with your merchandise or product costs," he said in a phone interview.

Tenorio, however, noted that the current prices in their store so far do not reflect the recent fuel surcharge hike.

"We are expecting containers to arrive by the end of the week and these goods will surely reflect the increase in fuel surcharge," said the manager.

Tenorio added that their company understands both Horizon and Matson's move as "times are hard right now."

"We need support from both shippers and customers to maintain our operations reasonably," he said.

Taitingfong concurred, adding that retail owners should also be "mindful of their customers."

"We take into consideration our customers so we try our best to make our prices as competitive as possible," he said.

On Feb. 25, Matson again announced another 8.5 percent fuel surcharge hike, which will increase its rate from 28 to 36.5 percent, effective March 27.

"Fuel prices have increased dramatically and have been exacerbated by the current unrest in the Middle East. Bunker fuel prices have recently exceeded $100 per barrel, and are quickly approaching the historic highs last experienced in the summer of 2008," Hoppes said in Matson's latest press release.

NMC to request $7.6M budget for next fiscal year

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College Board of Regents approved yesterday a budget request of $7.6 million for the next fiscal year, 71 percent of which would go toward paying the salaries of college employees.

The board, in a special meeting yesterday, clarified that the amount does not include the funds for the Apprenticeship Program.

The proposed $7.6 million budget for fiscal year 2012 is broken down as follows:

- $5.447 million for salaries and wages of employees;
- $108,140 for personnel insurance;
- $815,117 for retirement contributions;
- $157,789 for land grant retirement contribution;
- $216,415 for health insurance premium;
- $78,740 for Medicare contribution;
- $72,074 for Office of the Public Auditor fee; and
- $700,000 for utilities.

Board chair Juan T. Lizama said the budget request they transmitted to the Governor's Office and the Legislature ensures that the college continues to serve in its very important capacity.

"The amount requested also helps to ensure that NMC maintains the high quality of instruction and student services it provides to its students. Equally important, it will allow the college to meet accreditation standards and requirements," he said yesterday.

The new fiscal year starts in October.

150 FTEs for FY 2012

The board said yesterday that the $7.6 million budget request will be used primarily to fund personnel salaries for 150 full-time employees, benefits, and utility costs.

The requested amount is a 10-percent increase from last year's appropriations request of $5.6 million.

The higher amount reflects the increase in NMC's retirement contributions from 11 percent to 30 percent and the addition of critical positions, some of which were funded this year by the one-time stimulus funds.

The increase was also attributed to the merger of funding streams. In prior years NMC separately received appropriated funds under Public Law 10-66 to pay for salaries under NMC's nursing, business, and education programs.

The 2012 appropriation budget request consolidates salaries under one account, except for costs related to Apprenticeship Program.

"The 2012 appropriations budget reflects the college's critical financial needs. However, we do realize that the college is likely to receive only a fraction of the total budget request, and we are proactively working to anticipate those cuts now," said NMC interim president Lorraine T. Cabrera, adding that the college is already implementing cost-cutting measures and other steps to reduce expenses.

"We are using results from our program review process and other key information to guide the college's priorities," she added.

Cabrera added that the budget was also guided by institutional priorities that include implementing a preventive maintenance plan; more training and learning opportunities for employees; renovating existing buildings and constructing new ones at the current Saipan campus; and upgrading NMC's information technology system.

DPL asked to lift 1-year limit on grazing permits on Tinian

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Senate Vice President Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian) asked the Department of Public Lands to lift the one-year limit on agricultural grazing permits on Tinian and extend the permits to five years, mainly to help dozens of permit holders secure federal grants.

Hofschneider sent DPL a letter on Friday, a copy of which was obtained yesterday.

Public Lands Secretary Oscar M. Babauta, in a phone interview yesterday, said DPL has been giving consideration to agricultural grazing permit holders who want to have their permits extended, but "on a case-by-case basis."

"It's always been DPL's policy to help our ranchers. I thank the senator for his letter and for sharing the concerns of these ranchers and farmers," he told *Saipan Tribune.*

Hofschneider, who is chairman of the Tinian Legislative Delegation, said limiting the agricultural grazing lease to one year in increments is "hindering" the ranchers from receiving all possible funding from the federal government.

"Federal agencies want to see that an applicant will have use of a particular piece of property for an extended period. Many of our ranchers who attempt to avail of federal programs are rejected for the reason that one year does not satisfy federal requirements. Expanding lease terms from one year to five years will meet the requirements of federal agencies and help our ranchers get the help they need during these difficult times," Hofschneider told Babauta.

Babauta said he and Hofschneider talked over the phone about the matter yesterday. He said he will soon formally reply to the senator's letter.

The DPL secretary said federal grants help dozens of ranchers get different types of materials that help them save money and improve the areas where they have their cattle grazing. These federal-funded materials include solar electrical fences.

"Again, it's DPL's policy to help ranchers as much as we can, and we extend the permits on a case-by-case basis," Babauta added.

Tinian is made up of mixed-use areas. The land in the far north is used for the U.S. military only, and there are no exceptions, said Hoschneider.

The middle area of Tinian, while leased by the U.S. military, could be used with limitation by the civilian population. The southern part of the island is Commonwealth-owned land.

Inos: Govt supports new junior high but can't commit funding for now

Although the Fitial administration supports building a new junior high school on Saipan, it remains noncommittal due to lack of funds.

Acting governor Eloy S. Inos cited the CNMI's current economic malaise and other priorities that need more immediate resolution as stumbling blocks to the construction of a new junior high school.

"We do not object to the project…but I guess at the end of the day, it's a matter of priority funding. Education is a priority, but in terms of other immediate projects, we have a sewer system that deals with the health of our people," Inos told *Saipan Tribune* last week.

The building of a new middle school in Koblerville was first announced by Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan in January.

Education Commissioner Dr. Rita Sablan earlier said that building a new junior high school may cost about $6 million, including collateral equipment.

The unused capital improvement project fund and the $50 million in building grants that the U.S. Congress has already given the CNMI were first identified as funding sources for the new school.

The third junior high school on Saipan aims to reduce the number of students at Hopwood Junior High School by 50 percent, or from some 1,200 to 600 so they could get more personalized attention from teachers.

PSS plans to build the new junior high between Saipan Southern High School and Koblerville Elementary School. Besides Hopwood, the other existing junior high school on Saipan is Chacha Oceanview Junior High School. ***(Moneth G. Deposa)***

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DPH warns against whooping cough; urges vaccination

With the recent outbreak of pertussis in Guam, the Department of Public Health is advising parents to review their children's vaccination records to make sure that their children have been properly vaccinated with the DTaP (diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis) vaccine.

Pertusis, more commonly known as whooping cough, is a highly contagious bacterial disease of the respiratory tract. It is primarily spread by direct contact with discharge from the nose and throat of infected individuals.

Initial symptoms, similar to the common cold, usually develop about a week after exposure to the bacteria. Severe episodes of coughing start about 10 to 12 days later.

In children, symptoms are characterized by repeated violent fits of coughing followed by a high-pitched crowing sound or "whoop." The sound is produced when the patient tries to take a breath. Vomiting often follows these coughing episodes. Infected infants under 6 months of age and vaccinated persons may have a chronic cough without the "whooping" sound.

Whooping cough should always be considered when vomiting occurs with coughing. In infants, choking spells are common.

Other whooping cough symptoms include:

- Runny nose
- Slight fever (102°F or lower)
- Diarrhea

If parents are not sure if their children are vaccinated, they should contact their health provider or contact the Public Health Immunization Program at 236-8734/8745 to make sure their children's record is up to date.

The CNMI Immunization Schedule recommends the following DTaP doses:

- 1st Dose: Children who are at least 6 weeks old;
- 2nd Dose: Children 4 months old;
- 3rd Dose: Children 6 months old;
- 4th Dose: Children 15 to 18 months old;
- 5th Dose: Children 4 years old

If your child is at least 6 weeks old and has not received their DTaP vaccine, contact your health care provider immediately to schedule an appointment or you can also walk in to the Public Health Immunization Program located at the ground floor of the Commonwealth Health Center in Lower Navy Hill, Monday to Friday (except on austerity Fridays and holidays) from 7:30am to 11:30am and 12:30pm to 4pm.

Prevention measures

DPH urges parents to help protect their very young infants by minimizing exposure or close contact with persons who have cold symptoms or cough illness. Coughing people of any age, including parents, siblings, and grandparents can have whooping cough.

When a person has cold symptoms or cough illness, they need to stay away from young infants as much as possible.

Adults and children 7 years and older usually develop a much milder form of whooping cough.

Anyone who is suspected of having whooping cough or who is exposed to a person known to have the disease should be seen by their physician. Health care providers are also urged to review and update the immunization status of all children and adolescent patients they see. Routine vaccination of children under the age of 7 years should continue as recommended by the Advisory Committee for Immunization Practice. If vaccination is contraindicated because of an acute illness, a follow-up appointment should be scheduled.

Those who suspect that they or their children might have whooping cough should seek medical attention immediately. *Do not bring anyone suspected of having whooping cough into the hospital without warning the staff in advance.* Keep the patient outside in the parking lot and then follow instructions from the medical staff.

The Department of Public Health is encouraging the community to practice prevention measures by washing your hands often, covering your mouths when coughing or sneezing with a tissue or sleeve, and to stay home if sick. ***(DPH)***

Man falls overboard from Navy ship

SANTA RITA, Guam—A merchant mariner assigned on board the maritime prepositioning ship *USNS Maj. Stephen W. Pless* fell overboard from the bridge wing of the ship into the water on Sunday, Feb. 27, around 6:20pm, while the ship was operating off the coast of Guam.

The ship's captain was notified immediately and a "man overboard" maneuver was promptly executed followed by a search of the area. Two lighted life rings and an orange smoke were quickly deployed. The ship attempted to launch two lifeboats into the water, but due to poor weather and heavy seas, the ship was forced to halt these efforts.

A Guam-based MH-60S "Sea Knight" helicopter assigned to Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 arrived on scene around 7:40pm to assist with search and rescue efforts. At 9:50pm, the helicopter's crew sighted the mariner in the water, but due to continued bad weather in the area, the victim could not be recovered.

As of 2pmyesterday, the body has been located, but due to sea state, it has not been recovered. Recovery efforts are still ongoing.

Pless is crewed by 26 merchant mariners working for Waterman Steamship Corp., a private company under contract to MSC. The incident is currently under investigation. ***(USN)***

New filing schedule for BGRT

On Feb. 16, 2011, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial signed House Bill 17-45, which became Public Law 17-30, changing the Business Gross Revenue Tax filing and payment due date from quarterly to monthly.

Under the new law, filing and payment will now be due on or before the last day of the each month. For example, the BGR tax filing for the month of February 2011 is now due on March 31, 2011.

The Department of Finance has revised the BGRT forms and instructions to conform with the new law, which will be available at the Division of Revenue and Taxation at the Joeten Dandan building on Saipan and at the website http://www.cnmidof.net/rev/forms.asp by the first week of March.

Since PL 17-30 was signed only recently, the required monthly filing for the month of January 2011 has been extended and will be filed and paid with the February return, which will be due and paid on March 31, 2011.

For more information about these changes, call the Division of Revenue and Taxation at 664-1000. ***(Department of Finance)***

New Hampshire Idol winner enjoys Saipan visit

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Saipan extended its warm hospitality to 2006 New Hampshire Idol winner Jacob Heal, who was on island from Feb. 24 to 28 for a short vacation.

Heal visited Saipan for the first time at the invitation of his friend, Randy Mendoza, whose family he visited and met during his brief stay.

"My whole life I've always dreamed of visiting tropical places to snorkel and experience the wonders of the sea," Heal told *Saipan Tribune*.

Upon his arrival on Saipan early Thursday morning, Heal said the first thing he did was to climb a palm tree to do "some serious coconut picking."

He visited various historical sites, including the Grotto, Banzai Cliff, and the Suicide Cliff, aboard a moped.

Heal described snorkeling on Managaha as "drifting off into a deep dream of colors and sea life."

According to him, no words can express the beauty and amazement of the island.

"What is so amazing about Saipan is not just its physical beauty but the peaceful people that live [here] as well; they truly make this place feel safe and welcoming," he said.

Heal saw how inspiring and generous the people on island were. "[It's] beautiful to see people appreciate the little things in life, and truly care for what and who is around them," he added.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Jacob Heal, third from left, and friend Randy Mendoza are flanked by local performers during his vacation on Saipan.

Armed with the gift of voice, Heal began appearing professionally in musical theaters at the age of 10. With a music and acting scholarship at the New Hampton Preparatory School, Heal emerged as the big winner in the New Hampshire Idol contest hosted by local radio station WLNH, the singing competition that he said changed his life.

"[T]he contest really taught me that it's never too late to go after your dreams and do what you love, sometimes we may lose our footing along the road, but as long as we want it bad enough and are willing to fight for it, it can all turn around on a dime," said Heal.

These days, Heal acts as the lead vocal and songwriter of his eponymous band. They recently released a single, *Too Hard to Get Over*, which is a collaboration with industry bigwigs like Nina Ossoff, Sandy Frederickson, Mike Shimshack, and Jimmy Landry.

The pop-rocker invites the public to visit his website, www.jacobheal.com, for a free download of his songs and hear his album "Live Free or Die." Just enter promo code Jacob on the home page to download. He also invites the Saipan community to add him on Facebook, www.facebook.com/jacobheal.

"I look forward to coming back to visit and maybe someday in the near future I may be able to perform for you all live!" he said

Heal advised young and aspiring singers and performers to never give up, believe in themselves, and work hard to reach their dreams no matter what. "Find what you love and do it!" he added.

Quichocho wants Fund to join suit vs ex-consultant

» Also urges trustees to support, not oppose beneficiary derivative legislation

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Lawyer Ramon Quichocho on Friday tried to persuade the NMI Retirement Fund to participate in a pending lawsuit filed by three retirees against the agency's former consultant, Merrill Lynch.

The lawyer also lobbied the Fund board of trustees to change its position on the proposed Beneficiary Derivative Act, which it is strongly opposing.

Quichocho, who appeared at the board meeting on behalf of his retired father, described joining the lawsuit against Merrill Lynch and supporting the Beneficiary Derivative Act as the "right thing to do" for the hundreds of retirees in the CNMI.

"There are hundreds of retirees in the CNMI and we keep hearing [from the board] that the pension Fund is going to be bankrupt in some years. Now that we have an opportunity to get a lot of money for the wrongs that were done against the Fund…I guess the bottom line is really to do the right thing. Use your power wisely to really think about it," he said during Friday's public comment section.

Three retirees sued Merrill Lynch in 2009 for allegedly providing "bad investment advice" to the Fund. The board of trustees is also a respondent in the case.

The Fund has been asked to join the plaintiffs in the case in order to build a strong case but the board begged off last year.

Quichocho also appealed to the trustees to change its position on Senate Bill 17-43, which seeks to allow retirees or members of any trust such as the Fund to sue someone or group on behalf of the Fund or the trust.

"By not going after wrongdoers, you're exposing yourself to breach of fiduciary duties and this bill, in my view, protects you from breach of those duties. If you decide to join in the lawsuit [against Merrill Lynch] and you support Senate Bill 17-43…then you don't have to spend for legal fees…something that the board can avoid," he told trustees.

Board chair Sixto Igisomar argued, however, that joining the lawsuit would be a gamble because its consequences are unknown. He pointed out that discussions on the pending lawsuit against Merrill Lynch continue.

Jury trial of suspect in 2009 pawnshop robbery begins

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The jury trial of one of the suspects in the 2009 armed robbery at a pawnshop in Chalan Kanoa began yesterday in the Superior Court.

The cashier of the 24 Hours Pawnshop, formerly named the Pink House Pawnshop, was first on the witness stand to testify against suspect Fernando C. Quitano.

The prosecution also played the surveillance footage when two armed men entered and robbed the establishment on Oct. 23, 2009.

The footage showed that one suspect hit the cashier's booth's door with a sledgehammer. The other suspect smashed the door with a crowbar. The suspects, who were also armed with a machete and pellet gun, then attacked the cashier and owner Ju Sang So.

The cashier said he and two other men chased the suspects, who went in separate directions.

The cashier said that when he lost sight of one suspect near the post office, he went back to the pawnshop and called 911.

He said he sustained injuries on his head and had blood all over himself. The cashier said an ambulance later took him to the hospital. The gash on his head required nine staples. He said he later underwent surgery due to his injuries.

Quitano's lawyer, Stephen Woodruff, is scheduled to cross-examine the witness today, Tuesday, at 9:30am.

The Office of the Attorney General had charged Quitano, Marlon Martin, and Zhou Fan Zhang with aggravated assault and battery, assault and battery, assault with a dangerous weapon, armed robbery, theft, contempt, attempted murder, conspiracy to commit robbery, and conspiracy to commit theft.

Martin pleaded guilty to armed robbery. He was sentenced in April 2010 to seven years in prison, with no parole. The government dismissed the case against Zhang.

The case is being presided by Superior Court associate judge David Wiseman. The government is represented by assistant attorneys general Russell Lorfing and Tiberius Mocanu.

South Korean university reps visit NMC

NMC

Northern Marianas College faculty and staff pose for a group photo with visiting representatives from Changwon National University in South Korea.

The Northern Marianas College faculty and staff recently hosted a meeting with representatives of the South Korean Changwon National University at NMC.

The college hosted CWNU as part of efforts in advancing professional development focused on international exchange, cooperation, and governance. During the meeting, NMC faculty and staff engaged in a variety of discussions and facilitated a tour of the As Terlaje campus.

The visiting team is composed of a variety of professors specializing in fields such as international relations, law, mass communications, public administration, and sociology.

"It is a privilege for the college to be hosting the reapresentatives of Changwon National University," said NMC interim president Lorraine Cabrera. "The sharing of ideas with CWNU about the globalization of higher education will prove valuable to the advancement of NMC in forging relations with other colleges."

Changwon National University is a public institute that offers various courses in the humanities, social sciences and engineering, among others. CWNU also has established international programs geared toward international student exchanges as well as Korean language studies.

"This is such a great opportunity to bring forth some exposure to the college," said NMC Business Department instructor and lead event coordinator Wil Maui. "Such exposure may foster vital international discussions that may ultimately lead to an increase in tourism in the CNMI, with the college serving as an information hub for visitors." ***(NMC)***

NMI scores favorable High Court ruling on post-judgment interest

The Commonwealth Supreme Court issued Wednesday last week a unanimous ruling in favor of the CNMI in the case of Marine Revitalization Corp. and Anthony Pellegrino v. Department of Land and Natural Resources.

This decision affirmed a prior CNMI Supreme Court decision (issued Dec. 14, 2010), which "properly decided that post-judgment interest does not accrue against the government for their judgment-debt." Accordingly, the Commonwealth will be spared from having to potentially spend millions of dollars in interest on past civil judgments.

This case involved a motion to reconsider the earlier ruling in which the high court, on its own, determined that, unless specifically permitted by statute or contract, "post-judgment interest could not accrue against the government." The plaintiff had sought interest on a judgment that it had obtained against the Commonwealth in connection with construction of the Outer Cove Marina.

The plaintiff was represented by attorney Michael Dotts. The Commonwealth was represented by assistant attorneys general Gil Birnbrich and David Lochabay.

"We are pleased with the outcome and appreciate the work of AAG's Birnbrich and Lochabay," said Attorney General Edward Buckingham. "These are hard times and we seek to save taxpayer money whenever we can." ***(CNMI Judiciary)***

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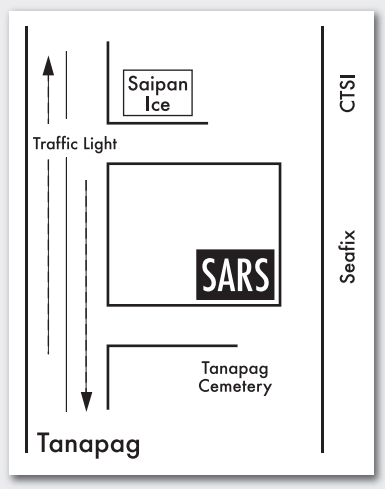

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Rota: 6:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. – Téteto Beach

China-US accord inked at NGA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

China's Ambassador to the United States Zhang Yesui, second from right, joins, from left, Office of Management and Budget's Virginia Villagomez, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, first lady Josie Fitial, and press secretary Angel A. Demapan in a reception at the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Washington, D.C.

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and the rest of the nation's governors approved and witnessed the signing of a historic accord that establishes the China-U.S. Governors Forum between the National Governors Association and the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries.

The first of its kind, the new agreement aims to strengthen the two countries' ties and establish a collaborative effort to address critical issues such as economic development, jobs creation, energy efficiency and tourism. Governors from China will join America's governors for the first time at the summer meeting of the NGA in July. Likewise, American governors have been invited to participate at the China meetings in the coming fall.

Fitial shared with his colleagues that the accord could open doors for greater opportunities for the CNMI and the other territories. "With this new relationship status, the Commonwealth's push to for a permanent visa waiver program for Chinese tourists is poised to gain support," said Fitial. "I will get together with Governor Calvo and Governor Tulafono to put together a solid plan that will be able to lure benefits to the territories."

Following the first day of the winter meeting, the nation's governors were honored in a reception hosted by China's Ambassador to the United States Zhang Yesui at the Embassy of the People's Republic of China.

Fitial, first lady Josie Fitial, Office of Management and Budget's Virginia Villagomez, and press secretary Angel A. Demapan attended on behalf of the Commonwealth. The ambassador greeted the CNMI delegation and expressed his appreciation for welcoming Chinese tourists and investors to the islands. (***Office of the Governor)***

Fitial to Salazar: Some ESA provisions stall NMI growth

WASHINGTON, D.C.—As part of the ongoing proceedings of the National Governors Association's winter meeting, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial joined his colleagues who comprise the Western Governors Association in ancillary meetings yesterday morning.

WGA chairman and Idaho Gov. Butch Otter convened the meeting with the other governors from the western states and territories. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack and Interior Secretary Ken Salazar served as the guest speakers and panelists.

Much of the discussion initiated by Vilsack and Salazar centered on energy efficiency, the Great American Outdoors report, and the new Forest Planning Rule. The governors in attendance sought the assistance of the Executive Branch for greater inclusion in the formulation process of regulations that get implemented at the national level.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Interior Secretary Ken Salazar, Idaho Gov. Butch Otter, and CNMI Gov. Benigno Fitial have their picture taken shortly before the start of the Western Governors Association's ancillary meetings at the ongoing National Governors Association winter meeting in Washington, D.C.

For his part, Fitial directed the concerns of the Commonwealth to Salazar regarding provisions of the Endangered Species Act that stall economic development. The law requires federal agencies, in consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and/or the NOAA Fisheries Service, to ensure that actions they authorize, fund, or carry out are not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any listed species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of designated critical habitat of such species.

The governor raised the need to consider the unique needs of the Commonwealth and the rest of the territories. He pointed out that the provision of the ESA has not only stalled economic development, but it has driven away potential investors and has incapacitated the local government's ability to expeditiously complete infrastructure projects.

"On behalf of the people of the CNMI, I humbly seek your assistance in either having the ESA amended or initiating efforts in the translocation of such protected species to the uninhabited northern islands," said Fitial. "We all share the common obligation to seek prosperity for our people."

Salazar admitted that he was not aware of these setback brought about by the ESA, but pledged to look into this matter so his department can be better equipped to address the issue.

Fitial also thanked Salazar for the Interior's support to jumpstart geothermal energy efforts in the islands. In response to this, Salazar lauded the NMI for its harmonious working relationship with Interior and in particular the Office of Insular Affairs. ***(Office of the Governor)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy, happy 14th birthday to our dear daughter, Angelica Mateo, who is celebrating her special day today, March 1, 2011. We love you very much! Greetings from your family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Mar. 1, 1999

NMC students conduct EAP survey

The Associated Students of the Northern Marianas College is conducting a survey among recipients of the local Educational Assistance Program to gather comments about its new policies and procedures. The group's president Shirley Santos said copies have been sent out to students and the survey is scheduled to end Friday afternoon. A meeting between her group and NMC officials is set on Tuesday. After receiving the letter from Special Adviser for Education Dan Nielsen containing EAP's new policies and procedures, her group went ahead to ask the sentiments of the majority.

OIA OKs $40,000 grant for CRM

The Office of Insular Affairs has extended a technical assistance grant to the Northern Marianas under an agreement forged in Washington which was designed to help the island in its efforts to preserve the coral reefs. The grant, signed by Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio and OIA Director Allen P. Stayman in Washington last week, will be awarded to the Coastal Resource Management to boost the agency's program in the protection and preservation of the coral reefs. The technical assistance amounting to $40,000 will help finance CRM's six-point program that includes implementation of a reef ball placement to create sanctuaries for the coral, installation of sign boards on how to protect the environment at key beach areas, educational campaign to encourage the protection of reefs, and purchase of underwater equipment for its monitoring team.

Mar. 1, 2000

Regulatory body to oversee utility service providers proposed

A new Senate measure will seek the creation of a regulatory body to oversee operations of utility service providers in the CNMI in an effort to protect consumers who end up paying high rates in the absence of such control. Sen. Ramon S. Guerrero filed Senate Bill 12-54 yesterday to pave for a fresh discussion on the issue after similar legislation failed to pass through both houses during the previous Legislature due to major differences among lawmakers. He said the lack of government regulation of utility service rate setting is "not in the best interests" of the local consumers as he noted that such function has been under the control of the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation.

CPA assures construction of new Tinian airport runway

Construction of the new West Tinian International Airport runway will push through despite suspension of the groundbreaking on two occasions, according to Commonwealth Ports Authority Executive Director Carlos H. Salas. Mr. Salas was reacting to a letter from CPA Board Secretary Ray M. Cing expressing concern on the continued delay in the construction of the new airport runway. CPA initially informed the Tinian Legislative Delegation that the project will break ground not later than November 1999. The date was later moved to January 2000. "January 2000 has already come to pass and groundbreaking is still nowhere in sight . . . CPA management seems to have continued to encounter delay after delay," Mr. Cing told the CPA executive director.

Mar. 1, 2001

More funds for recycling backed

The Department of Lands and Natural Resources has thrown its support to a proposed measure that would earmark fresh money to the government's solid waste management program. House Bill 12-041 intends to designate a portion of the existing Beverage Container Tax for recycling efforts that will be administered by the Division of Solid Waste Management. Lands and Natural Resources Secretary Joaquin A. Tenorio said DLNR will rally behind the passage of this proposed measure primarily because it will back up efforts to properly address waste disposal concerns in the Northern Marianas.

Torres dares Wiseman to undergo drug tests

Rep. Stanley Torres is calling Attorney David A Wiseman's bluff and wants the Superior Court associate judge nominee to undertake a drug test. During last Tuesday's Executive Appointments Governmental Investigations Committee (MAGI) hearing, Mr. Wiseman denied having smoked marijuana and taking illegal drugs in the past. He was responding to queries from the Senate floor and even said he was willing to submit to a drug test to prove his innocence and his detractors wrong. Mr. Torres, however, remained steadfast in his allegations of drug use by Mr. Wiseman.

Tinian Hot Pepper Festival just 'pika'! (hot!)

Balmy tropical weather, warm island hospitality, and the spicy hot pepper known to local Chamorros as "donni sali" came together from Feb. 19 to 20 to make the 7th Annual Tinian Hot Pepper Festival in the Northern Mariana Islands a sizzling success.

International visitors joined a crowd of local revelers on the white sand of Tachogna Beach to enjoy a packed weekend of live entertainment, local delicacies, and games staged by the Marianas Visitors Authority, the Tinian Mayor's Office, and the Municipality of Tinian.

A number of brave souls joined the hot pepper eating contest, with Danny Lambert and Sylvia Biz emerging from the fire as the first male and female finishers respectively. After a careful evaluation by the judges, the tag team of Vincent Reyes and William Aguon earned bragging rights for the best "estafao pika" (a Chamorro chicken dish laced with hot pepper) cooked on the festival grounds that weekend.

"This year's Pika Festival turned out to be more fun and exciting with the participation of our visitors in the different contests," said MVA Tinian rep Vida Borja. "The community deserves commendation for being good sports and for showing their undisputed friendliness as well."

Local delicacies, non-stop competitions, and island hospitality were touted by visitors as some of the highlights of the weekend. Vendor booths were creatively decorated with natural and other material, with JM Snack Mobil snapping up first place in the booth competition.

Island youngsters and visitors of all ages watched with high hopes as their "umang" (hermit crabs) raced down three yard shoots to the finish line, with the entries of Peter Ray Manglona and C.J. Hofschneider finishing first in two races.

Meanwhile, Team Pika bested all other teams for the title of beach volleyball champions. The dragon boat race attracted seven teams in four heats at the Tachogna Beach venue. Following several years of consecutive victories, team JC Café was out-paddled on Sunday by Team DCCA. Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz put his muscle behind team 2013, joining the sophomores of Tinian High School in their heat.

"The annual Tinian Hot Pepper Festival is a great opportunity for us to showcase some of the unique attractions of the Northern Marianas. On Tinian, those features include the internationally famous 'donni sali," the friendliness of the community, and the beauty of the island," said MVA community projects manager Martin Duenas. "It was a great weekend of festivities."

Other competitions saw the couple Jayloo Delos Santos and Mercedes Balderas cha-chaing away with first place in the dance contest. Several sack races were also held for children.

The Tinian Hot Pepper Festival was also sponsored by Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino and MARPAC and was supported by Star Marianas. The festival is held each February in the Northern Mariana Islands on President's Day weekend. ***(MVA)***

Young Tinian dancers entertain the crowd on Feb. 19.

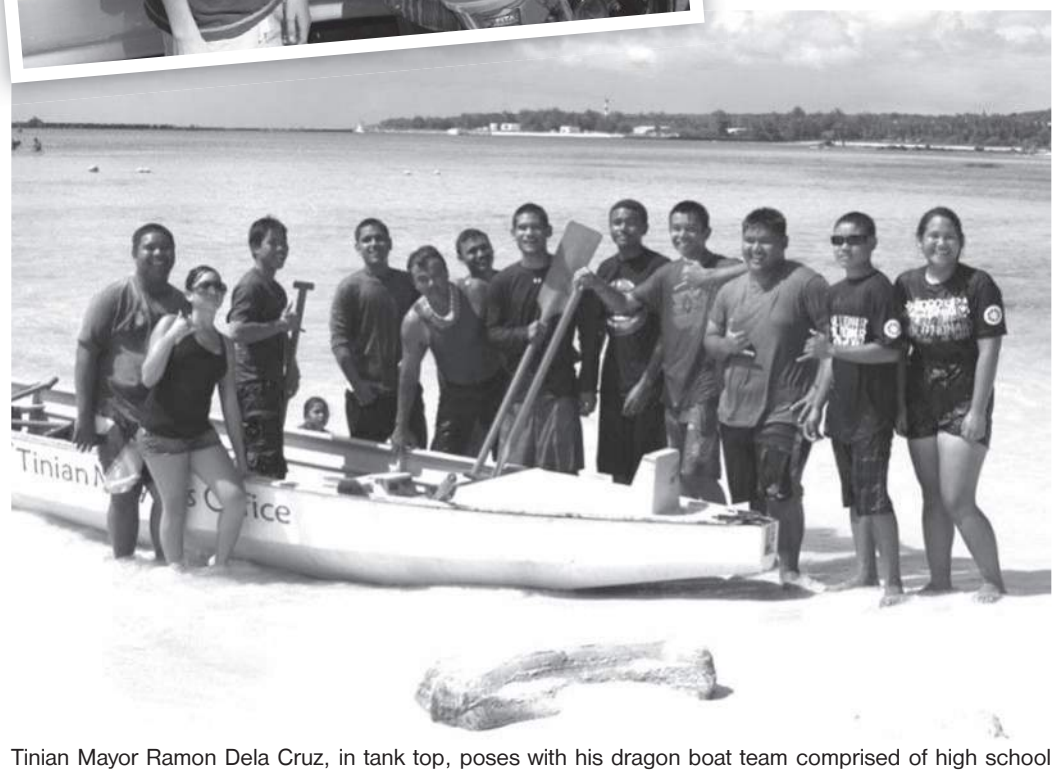
MVA

Booth vendors, including Isa, Leanna, and Marquina Hofschneider pictured here, offer island delicacies, crafts, and other items.

MVA

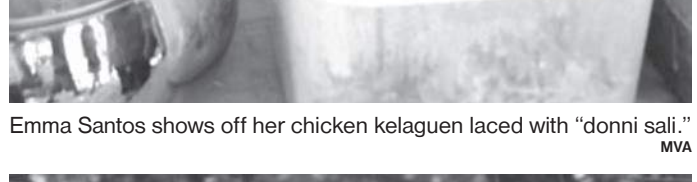
Caleb Rocher, left, and Napu Rocher check out their entries for the "umang" (hermit crab) race.

MVA



Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz, in tank top, poses with his dragon boat team comprised of high school sophomores after their heat.

MVA



Emma Santos shows off her chicken kelaguen laced with "donni sali."

MVA

D Boy Cruz sets the ball during the beach volleyball competition, which was won by Team DCCA.

MVA

Various species of hot peppers and lemons.

MVA

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Send Gadhafi packing

(c) 2011, The Miami Herald

The response of the United States and the international community to the atrocities committed by Libyan strongman Moammar Gadhafi against his people has been frustratingly slow and ineffectual.

While President Obama and other world leaders have dithered, the slaughter waged by Gadhafi's mercenaries has claimed the lives of hundreds, perhaps thousands, of peaceful protesters on the streets of Tripoli and other cities. And the killing continues.

The Arab League—not exactly the diplomatic equivalent of the Vienna Boys Choir—has effectively suspended Libya because its leaders were appalled at Gadhafi's criminal behavior. Meanwhile, though, the United Nations, the European Union and the U.N. Human Rights Council—which proudly boasts Libya (along with Cuba) among its members—have failed to do as much. They have issued condemnations, statements of concern and so forth, but to no avail.

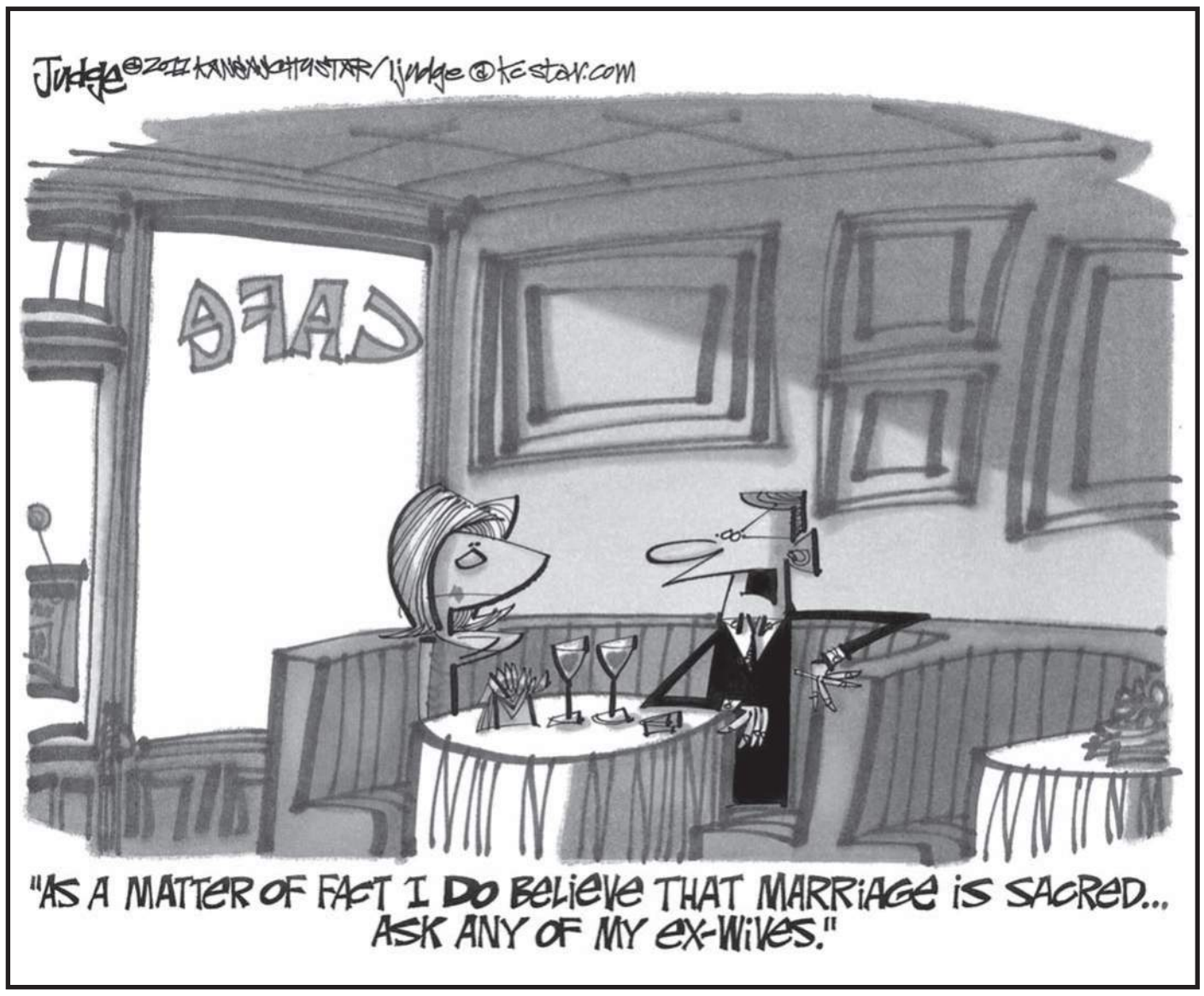
The timid approach was typified by an early draft of a resolution prepared by E.U. diplomats in advance of Friday's meeting in Geneva before the Human Rights Council—it's an outrage that Libya remains a member—that condemns the violence but stops short of pointing the finger of blame at Gadhafi's government. So far, the diplomatic vacillations have utterly failed to get Gadhafi's attention or influence his decisions.

World opinion is unlikely to move him, and it's too late to try to bring the Libyan leader to his senses. To prolong his 40-year rule, Gadhafi appears determined to take whatever measures are necessary, even if it means plunging the nation into a prolonged bloodbath. Clearly, Mr. Obama and other world leaders must send a much stronger message. They must take effective, concerted action, short of outright military intervention, to stop the brutality.

An effective strategy would separate Gadhafi from the soldiers, mercenaries and government officials who have not yet defected and are still propping up the regime. Whatever the outcome of the revolt, Gadhafi faces a grim outlook, but his supporters must be made to realize that they are unlikely to fare much better if they follow their leader over the cliff.

This means initiating action in the International Criminal Court against Gadhafi and anyone who continues to support his murderous regime. It means immediate suspension of Libya in international bodies, including the United Nations, and taking action to freeze the international assets of Gadhafi and his closest aides. It means granting a measure of international recognition to anti-Gadhafi forces that have seized the country's eastern region, and allowing international aid missions to provide emergency attention. It means creating a "no-fly" zone over Libya to give his air force second thoughts about taking to the skies to bomb protesters.

All of these actions can speed the day when the regime topples. The time for censure resolutions is long past. Gadhafi is an unpopular leader who has the blood of his own countrymen on his hands. Deprived of his military prowess, Gadhafi's rule is history. Making that happen is a test of the international community's resolve and moral courage.


Judge ©2011 KANSAS CITY STAR/judge@kcstar.com
CAFE
"AS A MATTER OF FACT I DO BELIEVE THAT MARRIAGE IS SACRED... ASK ANY OF MY EX-WIVES."

Exit Maynilad sa NAIA

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section.*

"*Where the wild thing is...roundabout my life,*" was emblazoned on the back of a Chinese traveler from Manila to Xiamen. That pretty much characterized our five hours of this leg of our journey, more on the stupidly crazy than the hilariously zany side of the term.

The trip to NAIA from Parañaque was uneventful enough. Even the traffic cooperated; schools were out for the day, it being a holiday to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the EDSA People Power revolution that, in the light of its result as well as the copycats elsewhere in the world, looks more now like a Sunday picnic/outing or a religious revival service by the river. The last count in Tripoli was a 1,000-plus riddled with bullets!

The ominous signs two days before our Saipan departure began when we walked out of the bank only to drop our wallet filled with our travel funds on the sidewalk in front of Joeten Ford, happily still there when we went back 30 minutes later after we discovered we lost it when we tried to settle our grocery account.

Our original CO flight to Guam was cancelled, earning us a sleepless interlude at PIC, and later, an uncomfortable wait at Won Pat International before heading to the city of the Maharlika/Mahal na Likha (precious creature) where "Asia wears a smile."

What I thought was a couple of hours to get a China Z (working) visa took three days at the Makati office and four days of waiting so I pretty much confined myself to my sister's house in Parañaque, existing on anxiety-induced adrenaline.

We got our ticket on the Internet; it was relatively inexpensive as the cost from Manila to Shenyang via Xiamen was considerably less than flying from Saipan to Manila, a more than a half less for the direct Saipan-Shenyang fare. Of course, we did not read the fine print. Economy fare of this category allows for only one 20kg suitcase. I was heading to a university for an extended posting. I was traveling with 40kg of luggage (two suitcases), half of which were books and printed materials. The additional weight was worth almost the cost of the ticket.

Not particularly blessed with a deep pocket, we resolved to find a way not to pay anything, and the front desk was helpful but only to a point. I could not produce my Platinum Medallion SkyMiles card that might have gotten me a 35kg allowance so the supervisor gamely reduced my liability to 10kg, still a class higher than my blood type; my luggage checked-in only half way since I have to clear customs in Xiamen. They would not take plastic, and none of my cash stash ($, peso, Rmb) could handle the bill unless it was in combination. That's when I started to physically hyperventilate.

I suppose, the adrenaline rush of the previous seven days finally waned once I got the visa; I noticed I picked up a cold virus bordering into symptoms of flu with a nasty production of phlegm. Panic took over. First hump was the airport fee, which I could afford only by combining $ and peso. Second was immigration: I failed to fill up the departure form. Third, I could not locate my wallet at the gate so I had to get back to security to see if I left it when I went through x-ray. Security x-rayed all my belongings again, and located the wallet in one of my jacket's pocket, the one I seldom use.

Fourth, when my flight was called, I could not find my boarding pass. It was, of course, in the book I was reading, but that dawning did not occur until I was the last passenger remaining at the gate. It was time for a deep pause and get into a casual "pay attention" mode.

The complement in my economy section in the plane had young Korean and Japanese tourists as well as mature business folks, a Pinay married to a German, and Filipino merchant marines heading for Guangzhou to catch their ship. My seatmates were a couple from Vladivostok who were pleased someone knew there was such a place, can pronounce it, and can actually locate it on a map! The couple on my left (I had the aisle seat) were Americans from Wisconsin who would not stop talking when I made a mistake of inquiring about Gov. Walker and his tiff with the public employees' union. Two Chinays sat at my back gabbing in their convent school Ching-Taglish, and an Aussie lady upfront sat beside two wearing a burqa and a hijab (Muslim headdresses). A Singaporean stopped by to chat with the Oz. Before I knew it, I was deeply engulfed and engaged in the wonder-filled and awe-some diverse world of planet Eaarth's humanum!

The airline stewards were very gracious, and extremely charming (the male was not bad looking either, my Russkyette neighbor said). We're partial to ladies. One of my ESL students dubbed me a "salacious" old man!

By the time I got out of Xiamen immigration (failed to fill-up an arrival form; no surprise there) and customs, I checked into my Shenyang flight. I had to deal with the 20kg overweight conundrum

See EXIT on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

They're doing it without us

By ANDREW J. BACEVICH
Los Angeles Times

Andrew J. Bacevich is a professor of history and international relations at Boston University. His most recent book is Washington Rules: America's Path to Permanent War. *He wrote this for the L*os Angeles Times.

The continuing upheaval in the Arab world (and in Iran) has rendered a definitive judgment on U.S. policy over the last decade. Relying on their own resources and employing means of their own devising, the people of the Middle East intent on transforming that region have effectively consigned the entire "war on terror" to the category of strategic irrelevance.

When first conceived in the wake of 9/11, two convictions underpinned that war. According to the first, precluding further attacks on the United States meant that the Islamic world needed to change. According to the second, because Muslims were manifestly unable to change on their own, the United States needed to engineer the process, with American military might serving as catalyst. Freedom (or at least submission) would issue from the barrel of a GI's assault rifle.

In Afghanistan, then Iraq and now, of course, AfPak, U.S. efforts to promote change have achieved—at best—mixed results. Meanwhile, the costs incurred have proved painfully high. In terms of treasure expended, lives lost and moral authority squandered, Americans have paid a lot and gotten precious little in return.

It now turns out that those exertions were unnecessary or, at the very least, superfluous. For nine years, the U.S. has been pushing in on a door that opens outward. More amazing still, that door swings open of its own volition. Events of the last several weeks have made it abundantly clear not only that important parts of the Islamic world are ripe for change but that the impetus for change comes from within. Transformation is not something that outsiders can induce or impose or control. The process is organic, spontaneous and self-sustaining.

So poor Muslims tired of living in squalor, and the not-so-poor fed up with suffering under the boot of corrupt authoritarian regimes (not infrequently allied with the United States), don't need Washington's coaching. They don't need us to "liberate" them. They are perfectly capable of liberating themselves. And their doing so basically doesn't cost the American taxpayer a nickel.

Whether Muslim self-liberation will see the rise of prosperous, stable, liberal democracies, tolerant of Israel and friendly to the West, remains to be seen. Yet with the United States doing little more than bearing witness—no need for an Operation Egyptian Freedom consuming hundreds of billions of dollars and thousands of American lives—the prospects of democratic change in Egypt and elsewhere in the region are greater today than at any time in memory.

For the inhabitants of the Islamic world, the moment is rich with possibility. For Americans, that moment is equally rich in irony.

Intent on positioning themselves on "the right side of history," senior U. S. officials busily amend whatever pronouncements they issued a week ago, hoping no one will notice. Determined to sustain the pretense that the United States remains capable of exercising "global leadership," pundits and policy analysts discreetly tap into al-Jazeera English in hopes of figuring out what's actually going on.

Yet Americans might also consider this an educational opportunity, with humility and contrition the order of the day, seasoned perhaps with a glimmer of hope. Here's what we should learn.

First, when it comes to divining history's purposes and intentions, the world's only superpower is clueless. "The whole drama of history," the American theologian Reinhold Niebuhr once observed, "is enacted in a frame of meaning too large for human comprehension or management." True when he wrote it more than half a century ago, the passage remains true today, notwithstanding the wonders of computers, iPhones and social networking.

Second, to disregard Niebuhr's counsel is to incur severe penalties. Arrogance invites punishment. The punishment that the United States has sustained in Iraq and Afghanistan merits not simply remembrance but sorrowful reflection: These were needless losses. For those who once advocated preventive war as the shortest path to peace, sackcloth and ashes might be appropriate.

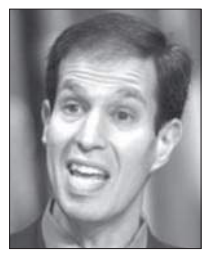
At the same time, however, we might take some small consolation in this: The demonstrators filling the streets in Cairo, Tunis, Tripoli, Algiers, Manama, Sana and Tehran give every indication of dreaming dreams not entirely dissimilar from our own. Rather than rejecting modernity, as radical Islamists such as Osama bin Laden have urged, these protesters want a bigger slice of what modernity has to offer. Though not guaranteeing harmonious coexistence, this convergence of aspirations does suggest that a cosmic clash of civilizations is avoidable.

If the Muslim masses demanding political freedom and economic opportunity prevail, they will do so not thanks to but despite the United States. Yet by liberating themselves, they will also liberate us. Our misbegotten crusade to determine their destiny will finally end. In that case, we will owe them a great debt.

The pillars of conservatism

By FRANK CANNON
Los Angeles Times

Frank Cannon is president of the American Principles Project. He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.



Of all the mischaracterizations of social conservatives, none is more stubborn and pernicious than the notion (promulgated by liberals and eagerly snatched up by credulous media voices) that groups and politicians that espouse a "values" philosophy seek to impose a draconian moral code on a dissenting populace. This notion not only demonstrates a lack of understanding of conservatism and its self-imposed limits, but it also betrays a refusal to face the fact that nanny-state preoccupations are the province of the American left.

Conservatives have labored for decades to counter this mischaracterization of social conservatism, but elements of the Republican Party persist in buying into it, going so far now as to promote the idea of a "truce" (operationally a complete capitulation by conservatives) between the contending sides on issues such as abortion and the definition of marriage.

True conservatives understand and respect the role of tradition, and fealty to historical reality. They treasure the moral and political principles formed over centuries. They know the difficulty of creating, and the greater difficulty of sustaining, a healthy, prosperous and well-functioning society. They would rather learn from previous generations' trials and errors than recycle the same social convulsions and reckless revolutions.

Conservatives work from a first principle of coherence. As a result, we see the links among the three strands of conservative philosophy—social institutions, economic liberty and national security. We turn to this philosophy when addressing such seemingly disparate issues as monetary policy, foreign affairs and religious liberty.

The pursuit of lower taxes and sound money is not, for example, simply a good in itself that serves individual interests, but a lived lesson in the making of prosperity that benefits ordinary people, strengthens families and safeguards the nation. The defense of the family unit and the protection of religious freedom are likewise not merely valuable goods in themselves but essential elements of personal thriving that prepare the next generation for economic success and the defense of the homeland.

But the "fiscal conservatism only" crowd would pluck away one mere strand of this philosophy and treat it, chillingly, as the whole of the social fabric. Its members behave as if there is nothing more to the protection of future generations than ensuring the safety of their wallets. The folly of that enterprise is on grand display in the nations of Europe, with their soaring sovereign debt, multiplying transfer payments and plummeting marriage and birthrates.

Overcoming the obstacles to recovery in these nations will include not only reducing spending and the debt burden they are imposing on the next generation, but actually having, raising and protecting that next generation. Country after country that has squandered the wealth of family life and destroyed millions of the unborn are testing whether the rejuvenation of the West is even possible.

The United States has lingered for decades on the threshold of following this deadly path. There is a struggle over what could be called the Reagan Doctrine—an abiding belief in the unity of conservative principles across the disciplines of economic freedom, national defense and civil society. That doctrine is now under unexpected challenge from a flock of tunnel-vision conservatives. These aspiring heirs to the Reagan legacy reject one or more of its core tenets. In their narrow focus they see only Homo economicus. They offer a "truce" on social issues intended to curry the favor of the left-leaning glitterati in the mainstream media, oblivious to how short-lived their romance with the liberal lens will be.

The funny thing is how well socially conservative thinking tracks with the "leave us alone" philosophy that underlies conservative economic thought. Social conservatives vigorously oppose judicial activism and massive government programs that impose uniform "solutions" and undermine self-rule. We seek the freedom to worship without government intrusion, to educate our children without having our values undermined by sex education mandates, to keep more of what we earn and to persuade our fellow citizens to join us in defending marriage and life in the womb.

The last of these freedoms—championing the right to life and traditional marriage—is front and center in the national discourse because elite and unrepresentative institutions have attacked it. Those who call for a truce on these topics are denying the value of mass movements that have arisen to preserve life and marriage, ideas that conservatives—but never conservatives alone—have long embraced.

The only truce that makes sense between the night watchman and the thief is for the latter to find an honest occupation. Politics too can be an honest occupation, but it must begin with accepting that a moral code is always at stake in political decisions—it is only a matter of determining which code belongs to the thief.

Letters to the Editor

De-fund vacant FTEs

Your article titled "Lawmakers: Its time to reduce number of government employees" repeats what we already know about the out-of-control personnel costs in the budget. The budget does not fund employees; rather it provides funding for FTE positions. So, it follows that to reduce the budget for personnel, the Legislature should de-fund existing FTE positions that are filled by employees. All vacant FTE positions should not be in the budget. The contingency is that FTE positions are subject to availability of funds. If there are no funds, it is unlawful to allocate and obligate funds for any position that is not funded by appropriation. It should be that simple as a realistic measure if we want to control the cost of personnel in the budget.

The question of whether the CNMI government is paying for too many positions should fall under OPM's jurisdiction. The Legislature should rely on the advice of OPM for validated and reliable information about the extent of how and what the CNMI government procures for positions to achieve its governmental objectives. As to how this is to be pursued, I think it wouldn't hurt to ask the director of OPM as this office should be the source expert and subject matter expert on personnel issues germane to the CNMI government.

Francisco R. Agulto
Chalan Kanoa, Saipan

The right direction

Education Board member Herman Guerrero is on the right track to modernize our Public School System with respect to modern technology. The idea to use e-books is now being practiced in certain classes at Case Western Reserve University in Ohio. The idea is to do away with carrying books to classes and simply use the iPad that is now available to replace books. I am not an expert in this area but this sounds very good, both for the students carrying heavy books around and the environment as there will be no need to cut down trees to produce books. In one of the university's monthly school publication last year, they had on their front cover the headline "The End of Books" with a hand holding only an iPad. In the article there are pros and cons on the subject but pros appear to be ahead. I believe Mr. Guerrero is correct; PSS should look into this idea. We need people like Mr. Guerrero who can think of how to make a difference for the good.

Frank M. Atalig
Sinapalo, Rota

EXIT

From Page 10

again. Happily they take credit cards but after mine was swiped and signed, I remembered the misplaced wallet and decided to look for my SkyMiles card. Lo and behold, it was in the passport wallet. This time, I only had to fork out 5kg's worth of overweight.

Of course, my eureka came after the card had already been swiped and signed so it meant that I paid fees to the airline's bank, my bank, and the cost of currency exchange, but what the hell, I got refunded in cash so I have extra Rmb to spend at DFS. Not.

Life. It can get wild, especially if one pays attention. How's yours this day?

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲85° ▼76°

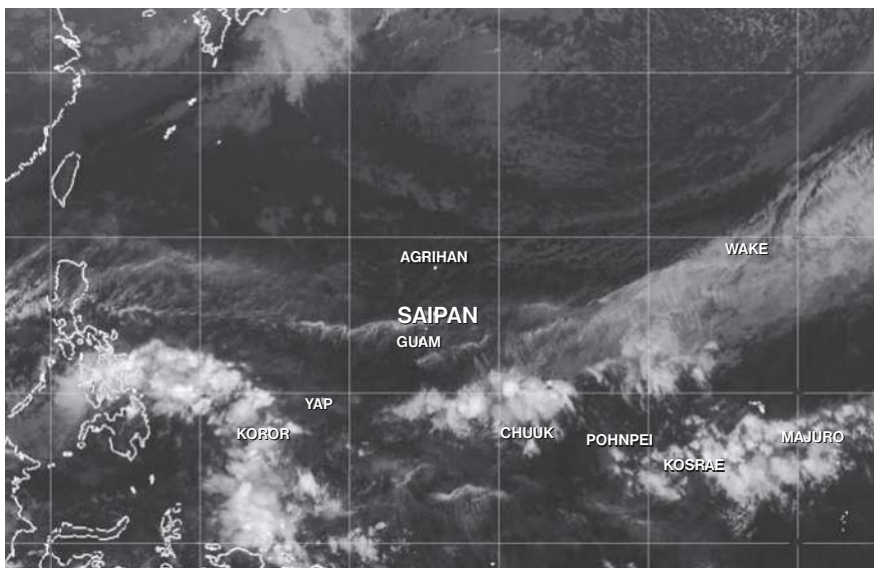
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲84	▼76
Palau	Rain	▲88	▼77
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼77
Chuuk	Rain	▲83	▼76
Pohnpei	Rain	▲82	▼78
Kosrae	Rain	▲86	▼78
Majuro	Rain	▲82	▼77

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲73	▼66
Beijing	Sunny	▲44	▼25
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲67	▼62
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲79	▼69
London	Partly Cloudy	▲44	▼39
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲64	▼45
Manila	Thundershowers	▲85	▼75
Melbourne	Sunny	▲68	▼51
Miami	Sunny	▲84	▼64
New York	Sunny	▲44	▼32
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲48	▼38
Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲49	▼35
Pusan	Sunny	▲47	▼32
Rome	Rain	▲55	▼42
Salem	Rain	▲43	▼41
San Francisco	Mostly Cloudy	▲58	▼51
Seoul	Sunny	▲38	▼24
Tokyo	Showers	▲49	▼36
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲52	▼35

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2011
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A surface trough extends southeastward from 4N130E to end near EQ135E. Converging winds east of the trough are generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms southeast of Koror between 6N and 1N from 134E to 141E. Scattered showers are found northwest of Koror west of line from 6N130E to 11N134E. A shear line runs southwestward from 20N180 to end south of the Marianas at 8N144E. Extensive cloudiness and scattered showers are found over Wake Island along and up to 450 miles northwest of the shear line east of 9N157E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are located just north of Chuuk along and up to 200 miles northwest of the shear line from 8N143E to 11N162E. A trade-wind disturbance is generating scattered showers over Kosrae between 6N and 2N from 160E to 165E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers over Majuro within 150 miles of a line from 5N168E to 7N180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

6:44 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
12:04 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet
4:59 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:35 AM	6:25 PM
Wednesday	6:34 AM	6:25 PM
Thursday	6:33 AM	6:25 PM
Friday	6:33 AM	6:25 PM
Saturday	6:32 AM	6:25 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	3:49 AM	3:29 PM
Wednesday	4:32 AM	4:19 PM
Thursday	5:11 AM	5:08 PM
Friday	5:48 AM	5:55 PM
Saturday	6:23 AM	6:41 PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 16, 2010

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM

CO9317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
CO9313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6
CO9313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
CO9601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
CO9603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
CO9605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:10am	8:45am	Daily
DL285	6:40am	9:15am	1, 3, ,4, 5, 6
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)

OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:25am	Daily via KIX

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

CA988	3:15am	6:55am	1, 5 Dec 13, 17, 20, 24 & 27 only

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
CO9317/891	4:25am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM
DL285/173	6:40am	10:15pm	1, 3, 4, 5, 6 via NRT
CO9313/933	7:55am	9:25pm	3 via GUM
CO9313/893	7:55am	11:00pm	3 via GUM-Palau
CO9603/933	3:05pm	9:25pm	5 via GUM
CO9603/893	3:05pm	11:00pm	5 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 ICN
OZ604/715	3:20pm	11:30pm	7
CO9605/933	6:20pm	9:40pm	1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
CO9599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ606/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
CO9603/909	3:05pm	10:25pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/723	3:20pm	10:35pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ604/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM-SAIPAN

CO9316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
CO9596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
CO9600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
CO9602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily
DL286	7:45pm	12:20am+1	2, 3, ,4 ,5, 7
DL288	8:00pm	12:30am+1	Daily

OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN

OZ120	9:50am	2:20am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:10pm	2:20am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

CA987	6:40pm	1:55am+1	4, 7 Dec 12, 16, 19, 23 & 26 only

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ716/603	12:30am	2:20pm	4, 6 via ICN
DL172/286	8:05am	12:20am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 7
CO890/9606	10:55am	8:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	1:10pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	1:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/CO9596	10:15pm	7:25am+1	6 via GUM
PR110/CO9596	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 4, 7 via GUM
CO892/9596	10:25pm	7:25am+1	3 via GUM-Palau
CO892/9596	10:25pm	7:50am+1	5 via GUM-Palau
CO934/9596	11:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 7 via GUM
CO934/9596	11:25pm	7:50am+1	4 via GUM
CO934/9596	11:59pm	7:25am+1	3 via GUM
CO934/9596	11:59pm	7:50am+1	5 via GUM

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN
OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
CO910/9596	11:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; CA: Air China
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

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The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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Business

Britain freezes UK assets of Gadhafi and family

LONDON (AP)—Britain on Sunday froze the U.K.-based assets of Libyan ruler Moammar Gadhafi, members of his family and their representatives in accordance with U.N. sanctions imposed on Libya.

Those affected include Gadhafi's four sons and one daughter, the Foreign Office said.

"I decided to implement this UN resolution in the U.K. as quickly as possible, before the financial markets reopened," Treasury chief George Osborne said. "This is a strong message for the Libyan regime that violence against its own people is not acceptable."

No immediate figure was put on the value of the assets, which banks and other financial institutions are now under an obligation to track down and freeze. Cash, shares, bonds and property are among the items affected.

The Times newspaper reported this weekend that Gadhafi deposited 3 billion pounds ($4.8 billion) with a London private wealth manager last week. The report did not cite sources.

The U.K. also banned the unlicensed export of any uncirculated Libyan banknotes from Britain. All existing export licenses for goods and technology that could be used for internal repression have been revoked and future licenses will be subject to the U.N. embargo.

President Barack Obama said Friday the U.S. was freezing the assets of the Gadhafi regime, and Switzerland has imposed similar measures.

It was also unclear what Gadhafi-linked funds were still in Swiss banks. Libya withdrew almost $6 billion from Swiss banks in 2008 after the two countries became embroiled in a spat over the arrest of Gadhafi's son Hannibal in a Geneva hotel.

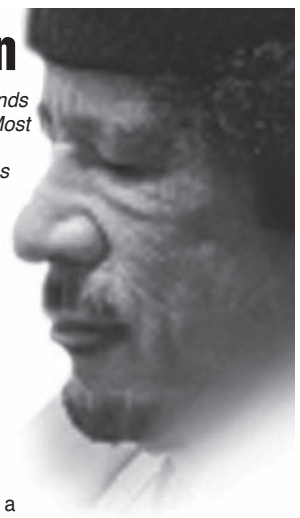
The withdrawal of the funds illustrates the blurred lines between Gadhafi's personal assets and those belonging to the Libyan state.

Libya's sovereign wealth fund is worth about $70 billion thanks to the country's oil and gas wealth. But much of that money is controlled by Gadhafi and his family, who are believed to have investments throughout Europe, including in Italy, Britain and the Netherlands.

The Libyan Investment Authority owns several properties in London's financial district and other upscale locations, and has a stake in the U.K.-based publishing company Pearson PLC, which own the Financial Times. One of the leader's sons, Saif al-Islam, reportedly owns a 10-million-pound ($16 million) mansion in London.

Earlier Sunday, Britain revoked the diplomatic immunity of Gadhafi and his family, effectively banning his entry into the country, and called on the autocratic leader to step down.

Gadhafi's children



Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi's clan tends to run the country like a family business. Most of his children hold government positions, and all are thought to have income streams from the national oil business.

Mohammed Eldest son; runs the Libyan Olympic Committee

Saif al-Islam Graduate of the London School of Economics; has headed several nongovernmental organizations and charities; credited with opening up the country to foreign investment; escorted convicted Lockerbie bomber from U.K. back home to Libya in 2009

Saadi Owns a film production company; is a former professional soccer player with a checkered history that includes alleged alcohol and drug abuse; was an officer in a special forces unit briefly and reportedly has been involved in putting down the protests

Mutassim National security advisor; once was forced to flee to Egypt after allegedly being involved in a coup against his father

Hannibal Known as a hellraiser, he has had several run-ins with the law, including an arrest in Switzerland for allegedly beating his servants; once worked for the General National Maritime Transport Company, the national oil export company

Khamis Heads the army's 32nd Brigade, a special forces unit thought to be the best-trained and best-equipped force in the country; unit reportedly has been involved in suppressing the protesters

Aisha Gadhafi's only daughter; a lawyer, she was part of former Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein's defense team; (Hanna, a younger adopted daughter, was killed in the 1986 U.S. bombing of Tripoli)

Saif al-Arab Little is known about this son who reportedly lives in Germany

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Source: The Guardian (U.K.), The Independent (U.K.), The Telegraph (U.K.), AP, MCT Photo Service
Graphic: Pat Carr

China lowers its economic growth target to 7 percent

BEIJING (AP)—China is slightly lowering its annual economic growth target, to 7 percent from 8 percent, the premier said Sunday, in a move that signals a shift in government priorities to put the breakneck economy on a more sustainable footing.

The tweak to the growth rate, announced by Premier Wen Jiabao in an online chat with Chinese citizens, is largely symbolic. Economic growth has exceeded the 8 percent target each of the past six years that it has been a fixture of government plans. Last year, growth reached 10.3 percent, making China the world's fastest-expanding major economy.

Along with the growth, however, inflation has picked up, especially for food and housing. Economists and senior Chinese officials have said for months that Beijing must downshift the economy to help tame prices and move toward growth that is driven more by consumer spending than by the hefty investment and bank lending that fueled the latest spurt.

The questions selected for the premier's well-orchestrated online chat highlighted popular concerns about inflation and home prices—problems that Wen acknowledged could cause protests if left unchecked.

"Rapid inflation affects people's livelihoods and may affect social stability," Wen said. He later added: "I know the impact that prices can cause a country and am deeply aware of its extreme importance."

Asked about the high rates of growth set by local governments and worries they could worsen environmental degradation, Wen said that the 7 percent target would be embedded in the current five-year plan for 2011-2015 "to raise the quality and efficiency of economic growth."

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Madoff to NY magazine: Government a Ponzi scheme

NEW YORK (AP)—Wall Street swindler Bernard Madoff (MAY'-dawf) calls new regulatory reform enacted after the recent national financial crises "a joke" and describes the federal government as a Ponzi scheme. Madoff made the remarks during a telephone interview with a writer for New York magazine. The interview was published on the magazine's website Sunday night. Madoff did an earlier New York Times interview in which he accused banks and hedge funds of being "complicit" in his Ponzi scheme to fleece people out of billions of dollars. He's serving a 150-year prison sentence in Butner, N.C., after pleading guilty in 2009 to fraud charges.

Fierce winds close Alaska oil pipeline port

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)—Hurricane-force winds have forced a shutdown of the port where Alaska oil is loaded onto tankers. The National Weather Service says there are multiple reports of flying debris shattering windows and siding blowing off buildings in Valdez, where the port is located. The winds peaked at 95 mph Saturday, prompting the port closure. The Alyeska Pipeline Service Co. terminal remains open, and an Alyeska official says oil flowing from the trans-Alaska oil pipeline is being put into storage tanks. The winds settled Sunday to about 10 mph, with a 65 mph gust blasting through the town. Winds are expected to flare up again, with gusts in the 80 mph range.

Japanese stocks rise again

NEW YORK (AP)—Japanese stocks have disappointed investors since 1990. No longer. Japan's Nikkei 225 index has climbed 15 percent since Nov. 1. The increase means Japanese stocks have done better over the past four months than they have in 17 of the last 21 calendar years. They are also beating the major indexes in the U.S. and other countries. It's new ground for the Nikkei 225, which has done worse than U.S. stocks in all but four years over the past two decades. Even with the gains, the Japanese index is still 73 percent below its peak, set on Dec. 29, 1989.

Inappropriate interview questions

Question: I was being interviewed over the telephone for a position and, as the discussion progressed, the interviewer asked me how old I was. I'm over 40. Isn't this an EEO violation?

Before I start on this article's topic, I would like to note that since the last two articles on payroll deductions, I am aware of several companies that have changed their policies in order to comply with the law and to provide fairness to their employees—and the employee mentioned in the last article was reimbursed for the deductions for the equipment that failed during his shift. I would like to applaud these companies for doing what is right. Hopefully, others that I am not aware of have also corrected their policies. However, I still check with cashiers and others and find that they are still being deducted. I hope their companies will also make changes to their policies and stop these unlawful deductions.

Okay, to the topic of the question—asking an applicant's age is not in itself a violation of any EEO law, BUT it may lead to discrimination and it leaves the employer vulnerable because of having brought it up in the interview process. If this question were asked by an employer and the applicant was not selected for the position and an applicant who was younger and had less experience was selected, there might be grounds for a charge of discrimination. I say "might" as a couple of requirements have to be met: the applicant must be over 40 years of age, and the employer must employ 20 or more employees who worked for the company at least 20 weeks in the current or last year, in order to be covered by the Age Discrimination in Employment Act.

You will also note that I said "grounds for a charge." That doesn't mean that discrimination actually occurred. However, if a charge of discrimination is filed, then the employer must convince the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission that the reasons for not hiring the over-40 applicant were work-related and non-discriminatory. Such convincing occupies significant work time, often costs money in legal fees, and creates a lot of unneeded stress.

I can't imagine any company appreciating their interviewer getting them into that situation. It makes sense for managers, supervisors, or human resource office staff members who do interviewing to make sure they have an understanding of the EEO laws and what questions are permissible. From "Hello" to "Thank you, we'll be in touch," keep the questions and conversation on the question of whether or not, and to what degree, the applicant is qualified for the job. Information regarding race, sex, national origin, age, and religion are irrelevant in such determinations and there is no reason for questions touching on these subjects to be asked. Prepare the interview questions ahead of time and screen them carefully to ensure that they do not inquire into potentially discriminatory areas. Be careful about the off-the-cuff, unplanned questions that always come to mind as the interview proceeds. It is also best to politely stop an applicant from volunteering information that could later lead to a claim of discrimination.

As I mentioned earlier, in most cases, it is not the asking of the question that is illegal, but the discrimination that takes place as a result of it. This is not the case, however, concerning disabilities. The Americans with Disabilities Act specifically prohibits asking job applicants about the existence, nature, or severity of a disability. Applicants may only be asked about their ability to perform specific job functions. The question should be, "Can you perform the essential functions of this job with or without a reasonable accommodation?" Save the discussion regarding any accommodation until after the hiring decision and the job offer has been made.

By the way, do not ask for a photograph of an applicant. If needed for identification or record purposes, a photograph should be obtained after an offer of employment is made and accepted.

Both employees and employers should be aware of what can and cannot be discussed in a job interview. For more information, you can visit the EEOC website at www.eeoc.gov.

The information contained in this column is intended as general information only. Readers should obtain professional advice before taking action with respect to their individual situations. Readers may submit questions regarding human resource issues to hrsupportcnmi@gmail.com or editor@saipantribune.com.

HR MATTERS

By FRANK GIBSON
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Frank L. Gibson, SPHR, GPHR, owner of HR Support, CNMI, a Saipan-based training and consulting firm, has been a resident of the CNMI for more than 15 years. One of the founding members of the CNMI Chapter of the Society for Human Resource Management, he has worked both as a line-manager of human resources and in the Human Resource Office.

Nation

Soldier impersonators target women in web scams

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP)—Con artists are targeting women on Facebook in what's becoming an all-too-common ruse: They steal photos of soldiers to set up profiles, profess their love and devotion in sappy messages—and then ask their victims to cut a check.

Army Sgt. James Hursey, 26, discharged and sent home from war in Iraq to nurse a back injury, found a page with his photos on Facebook—on a profile that wasn't his. It was fake, set up by someone claiming to be an active-duty soldier looking for love.

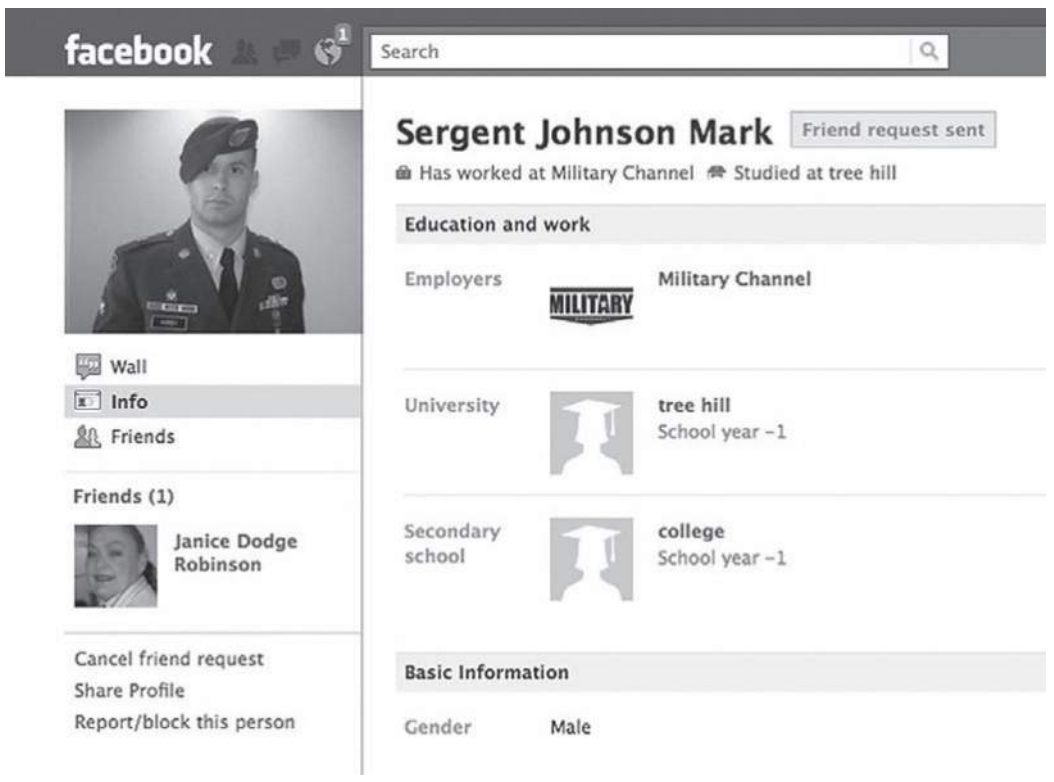
Military officials say they've seen hundreds of similar cases in the past several years. Some of the impersonators have even used photos of soldiers who have died overseas.

"It's identity theft, really, if you think about it," said Hursey, of Corbin, Ky., a married father of a 2-year-old.

The impersonator using Hursey's photos portrayed himself as a soldier named "Sergent (sic) Mark Johnson." The fake followed the same steps every time: Send a friend request, immediately express undying love and affection, and ask for money.

The fake's cover was blown, though: Janice Robinson, 53, of Orlando, Fla., knew something wasn't right when the man professed his love to her and signed every message with, "Johnson cares." She had begun talking to him thinking he was one of several people named Mark Johnson that she knew.

"I said, 'How can you say you love me? You don't even know me. You are insane,'" she told The Associated Press in a telephone interview. "... You could tell the guy in the picture was young. I'm 53 years old. You can look at my picture and tell I'm not 20."



AP

This screen shot take from Facebook.com on Thursday, Feb. 24, 2011 shows a Facebook page set up by a person impersonating Army Sgt. James Hursey and showing Facebook friend Janice Robinson.

Her story was first reported by WYMT-TV in Hazard, Ky., and WKMG-TV in Orlando.

Christopher Grey, spokesman for the Army's Criminal Investigation Command at Fort Belvoir, Va., said the Internet impersonators often make ridiculous claims. Some say they need money for special laptops and cell phones. Others say they need cash to buy special papers to come home on leave or a registration form because military officials won't let them talk to family.

"Well, there is no such thing," Grey said. The papers are phony, often poorly doctored versions of actual military documents.

The person using Hursey's photographs sent Robinson what he called a form to register to be able to speak to the soldier on the telephone. He told her it would cost $350 for them to be able to communicate by phone.

The form, a poorly doctored copy of a common Army form used to correct information in a soldier's official record, included a blank to fill in the intended victim's social security number.

Robinson said she knew people didn't have to register to talk to soldiers and refused to fill out the form. She also refused his requests to wire money and send credit card and bank account numbers.

Instead, she contacted a local television reporter and Hursey, whose name was visible in the phony profile's photos.

"I just wanted to see exactly how far this would go and I wanted to protect people ... that aren't as savvy to scams as I am and don't pick up on this stuff," Robinson said.

Grey said there are no known instances of Army personnel losing money in such scams. But the victims have. In one case, a person lost some $25,000, he said. Because many scams originate in foreign countries, military officials can do little except offer advice about the scams and direct victims to agencies such as the Federal Trade Commission.

The scam artists use untraceable e-mail addresses, route accounts through international locations, and use pay-per-hour Internet cybercafes that also make it difficult to trace them, Grey said.

The Army encourages anyone who suspects they are being used in a scam to file a report with their local police as well as report the cases to agencies such as the Federal Trade Commission.

Only one state, California, has made online impersonation a crime, said Tim Senft, founder of Facecrooks.com, a website that focuses on scams via social media. The law makes impersonating someone online a misdemeanor, punishable by up to a $1,000 fine and a year in jail.

GOP governors undermine Obama's agenda in states

WASHINGTON (AP)—Their ranks swollen after the last election, Republican governors from Florida to Alaska are undermining President Barack Obama's agenda at every turn ahead of the Democrat's 2012 re-election campaign.

Some are rejecting federal money for high-speed rail. Many are fighting the president's health care law. And several are going after the Democratic Party's bedrock constituency, pushing laws that would weaken the power of unions.

Not that any Republican governor will acknowledge that this is politics at play—even if it is.

"Republican governors are doing what they said they would as candidates," insisted Mississippi Gov. Haley Barbour, who led the GOP's campaign efforts last fall and may seek the party's presidential nomination. "All this goes back to our commitment in the last election that we're going to get control of spending for the sake of the taxpayers."

"It's not a conspiracy. It's not that we're doing this for a political reason to go after the president," added first term Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Corbett. "We have fundamental disagreements. We have different perspectives."

But left unsaid in interviews with governors attending this weekend's National Governors Association meeting was this: Republicans, particularly in places with many electoral votes, like the Midwest, are fully aware that stymieing Obama's plans in the states could weaken him just as he tries to make the case to the country that he should get a second term.

One Republican governor has gone so far as to privately liken GOP governors' efforts to providing "oversight of the Obama administration."

All that provides fodder for Democrats to criticize.

"They are so obsessed with the short-term political game of keeping the president from succeeding that they've taken their eyes off of the big goal ... which is creating jobs and moving our states and country out of this recession," said Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, chairman of the Democratic Governors Association.

Could the GOP effort to undercut Obama backfire?

"Yes. I think it already has," said Connecticut Gov. Dan Malloy, a Democrat. "Americans aren't anxious to refight the fights of the last two years. They want to move on."

The president's conflicts with GOP governors date to his first years in office. Many Republican governors opposed Obama's economic stimulus plan. Some also objected to his Gulf Coast oil-drilling moratorium.

Police allow protesters to remain at Wis. Capitol

MADISON, Wis. (AP)—The occupation of the Wisconsin Capitol by protesters fighting efforts to strip public workers of union bargaining rights carried on Sunday after police decided not to forcibly remove demonstrators and end a nearly two-week-long sit-in.

Roughly three hours after a deadline to vacate the building had passed and as police officers continued to look on quietly, protest coordinator Erika Wolf took to a microphone and announced: "There's really awesomely good news—that we're going to be able to stay here tonight."

A cheer went up from the several hundred protesters who had ignored a request from the state agency that oversees the Capitol to leave by 4 p.m. so that the normally immaculate building could get a thorough cleaning.

"If you want to leave—it's totally cool, because the doors will be open around 8 a.m." on Monday, said Wolf, 25, who works with the United Council of University of Wisconsin Students.

But many said they would stay and again sleep inside the Capitol, which protesters have filled with chants, catcalls and song since their demonstration began on Feb. 15.

"It was a victory for peace. It was a victory for democracy," said Kara Randall, 46, a massage therapist from Middleton who had already spent five nights at the Capitol.

Demonstrators began camping out inside the Capitol two weeks ago in an effort to fight legislation proposed by Wisconsin's new Republican governor, Scott Walker, that would strip most of the state's public employees of the right to collectively bargain.

Labor leaders and Democratic lawmakers say the bill is intended to undermine the unions and weaken a key base of Democratic Party voters.

Walker argues the Republican-backed measure would help close a projected $3.6 billion deficit in the 2011-13 budget, and that freeing local governments from having to collectively bargain with public employee unions would give them the flexibility needed to deal with forthcoming budget cuts.

ACROSS THE NATION

Sources: Gingrich closer to presidential run

WASHINGTON (AP)—Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich intends to take a formal step toward entering the 2012 presidential race within the next two weeks, Republican officials said Sunday, after months spent traveling to important primary and caucus states. These officials declined to say precisely what type of announcement the 67-year-old former Georgia lawmaker would make, but added they expect him to make clear his determination to run. If so, he would be the first Republican to do so in a slow-to-develop field of potential challengers to President Barack Obama. Gingrich became the first Republican speaker in 40 years after he led his party to control of the House in the 1994 elections. He left Congress two turbulent terms later, intensely controversial and under pressure from disillusioned one-time supporters in the rank and file.

Freight train derails north of Portland, Ore.

UNIVERSITY PLACE, Wash. (AP)—Crews are cleaning up after a freight train derailed and sideswiped another on the banks of Puget Sound, spilling a small amount of a hazardous chemical. Four of the 14 cars that derailed late Saturday were tankers that each contained 15,000 gallons of lye, a chemical used as a drain cleaner and for other purposes. The News Tribune of Tacoma reports that about 25 gallons of lye leaked into the sand, and another 25 gallons were contained in a plastic bag attached to the leak. The accident occurred as a BNSF train was heading north from Portland, Ore., passing an area known as the Tacoma Narrows. The train derailed and some of its cars struck a freight train traveling in the opposition direction.

2 children hospitalized from daycare fire improve

HOUSTON (AP)—Two children still hospitalized with injuries suffered in a home daycare center fire in Houston are showing signs of improvement, a hospital spokeswoman said Sunday. Both remain in critical but stable condition at the Shiners Hospital for Children in Galveston on Sunday, said hospital spokeswoman Jo Ann Zuniga. Four other children died from injuries suffered Thursday in the fire at Jackie's Child Care in west Houston. Another child has been discharged from a Houston hospital.

No specific information on the children's injuries was released. However, Dr. David Herndon, the Shriners Hospital chief of staff, said in a statement that "we are very hopeful for full recovery of patients who have these types of injuries."

Asia

Infant boy the first NZ quake victim laid to rest

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand (AP)—A 5-month-old boy was laid to rest Monday at the first funeral for the victims of New Zealand's devastating earthquake, as the confirmed death toll rose to 148 and the government considered a nationwide levy to help pay for reconstruction.

Dozens of family and friends gathered at a small chapel in the stricken city of Christchurch for Baxtor Gowland, who was sleeping peacefully at home when he was struck by masonry shaken loose by the magnitude 6.3 quake last Tuesday. He died in a hospital, the family said in a statement read to The Associated Press by the child's great-uncle, Peter Croft.

Inside the chapel, a slideshow of the smiling infant's photographs flashed on a screen, as Sarah McLachlan's song "Angel" echoed throughout the room.

"We have all been thankful of the support and good wishes expressed from New Zealand and around the world," Croft said, his voice shaking with emotion as he read the statement. "However, we would like to think that today is for family and friends so that we can farewell Baxtor with peace and dignity."

Authorities have named just eight victims of last week's disaster—Gowland and another infant among them.

Superintendent David Cliff said Monday that the death toll had reached 148, based on the number of bodies recovered from the rubble. Officials say the task of identifying the dead is slow and difficult, and that unidentified bodies are included on a list of people considered missing, which currently numbers around 200.

Cliff said "grave fears" are held for about 50 of those counted as missing, signaling the final death toll could be around 200.

The multinational team of more than 600 rescuers scrabbling through wrecked buildings in the decimated central area of the city last pulled a survivor from the ruins at midafternoon Wednesday, making it six days without finding anyone alive.

Police have said up to 120 people may have been killed in the downtown CTV building, where dozens of foreign students, mostly Japanese and Chinese, from an international language school were believed trapped. And up to 22 people may be buried in rubble at Christchurch Cathedral, most of them believed to be tourists climbing the bell tower for its panoramic views of the southern New Zealand city.

Prime Minister John Key was meeting with his Cabinet on Monday to discuss an aid package for an estimated 50,000 people who will be out of work for months due to the closure of downtown.

Key said measures being considered include an extra levy on all householders under New Zealand's compulsory quake insurance system to raise the estimated $4 billion needed to cover an insurance shortfall.

The package, to be announced later Monday, would also likely include wage subsidies and cash grants to Christchurch residents to ensure businesses have cash flow and can continue to operate.

Engineers and planners say the city's decimated central area may be completely unusable for months to come and that at least a third of the buildings must be razed and rebuilt. The government has said that virtually all services conducted in the downtown area will have to operate from elsewhere during the rebuilding period.

AP

Joanne Fagan-Oslawskyj weeps as she attends a service with her family, Jamie, right, and Grace, center, husband Joe Oslawskyj, and Sarah at St. Barnabas Church in Christchurch, New Zealand, Sunday, Feb. 27, 2011.

China uses whistles, water, police on protests

SHANGHAI (AP)—Large numbers of police—and new tactics like shrill whistles and street cleaning trucks—squelched overt protests in China for a second Sunday in a row after more calls came for peaceful gatherings modeled on recent democratic movements in the Middle East.

Near Shanghai's People's Square, uniformed police blew whistles nonstop and shouted at people to keep moving, though about 200 people—a combination of onlookers and quiet sympathizers who formed a larger crowd than a week ago—braved the shrill noise. In Beijing, trucks normally used to water the streets drove repeatedly up the busy commercial shopping district spraying water and keeping crowds pressed to the edges.

Foreign journalists met with tighter police controls. In Shanghai, authorities called foreign reporters Sunday indirectly warning them to stay away from the protest sites, while police in Beijing followed some reporters and blocked those with cameras from entering the Wangfujing shopping street where protests were called.

Bloomberg News said at least five men who appeared to be plainclothes security assaulted one of its reporters, confiscated his video camera and detained him in a store until uniformed police arrived.

Police also detained several Chinese, at least two in Beijing and four in Shanghai, putting them into vans and driving them away, though it was not clear if they had tried to protest.

While it isn't clear how many people—if any at all—came to protest, the outsized response compared with last week shows how the mysterious calls for protest have left the authoritarian government on edge. Unlike Egypt and Tunisia where popular frustrations with economic malaise added fuel to popular protests to oust autocratic leaders, China has a booming economy and rising living standards. Still, the leadership is battling inflation and worries that democratic movements could take root if unchallenged.

"Rapid inflation affects people's livelihoods and may affect social stability," Premier Wen Jiabao said in an online chat Sunday. While he did not mention the Middle East, he later added: "I know the impact that prices can cause a country and am deeply aware of its extreme importance."

US soldier makes posters to remember fallen

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan (AP)—Remembering the dead by carving their names on a cold, stone wall seemed too impersonal to U.S. Army Cpl. Poto Leifi.

Leifi, a California commercial artist-turned soldier, thought the U.S. troops killed in Afghanistan and Iraq should be remembered full of life—and in a way that celebrated their patriotism.

After years of trial and error, Leifi makes posters in a vintage style that recalls the "Rosie the Riveter" and "Uncle Sam Wants You!" recruiting posters of World War II.

He calls his project "Freedom's on Me"—a patriotic twist on "Drinks are on me."

One of his first posters commemorated Marine Cpl. Mick Bekowsky, a 21-year-old from Concord, California, killed by a car bomb Sept. 6, 2004 in Fallujah, Iraq.

Bekowsky, who liked to race cars, hunt and fish, is shown bare-chested, beaming toward the sky, arm around a woman in a vintage bathing suit.

The poster dubs him "American Hero."

Leifi, a stocky man with black glasses who deployed to Afghanistan in May after a tour of Iraq, launched his project in 2006. But his story begins on 9/11.

When he arrived at work in southern California that day, everyone was glued to the TV.

"After that experience, work kind of lost its flavor," he said.

Leifi wanted to enlist, but his colleagues at work persuaded him that at age 34 he was too old. Leifi stayed busy with his career, designing soles for Skechers, the trendy footwear company, and vintage jazz posters for an art publisher.

AP

In this Feb. 8, 2011 photo provided by the International Security Assistance Force Regional Command (South), U.S. Army reservist Cpl. Poto Leifi, a multimedia illustrator deployed to Afghanistan, poses for a photo with his artwork at Kandahar Airfield in Kandahar, Afghanistan.

Then in 2005, U.S. soldiers at a coffee shop told him he wasn't too old to join.

Leifi visited a recruiter. A year later, at age 39, he was in basic training in Fort Jackson, South Carolina.

Fired up about joining the military, Leifi searched the Internet for patriotic posters, but wasn't thrilled with what he saw.

"I'm a fan of the military posters created during World War II so with the help of some friends as models, I began to make new posters with that vintage-feel," Leifi writes on his website. He tried using the faces of fallen, and "when I did, the posters came to life in a very profound way and the project took a whole new direction."

Leifi is assigned as a multimedia illustrator to a military psychological operations unit in Kandahar province, a key front in the war in southern Afghanistan. He designs the posters after-hours, and has completed 10, using photographs and a computer software program for illustrators.

ASIAN BRIEFS

SKorea, US begin annual drills amid NKorea threat

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korean and U.S. troops have kicked off their annual drills, while North Korea has vowed retaliation for what it says is a rehearsal for invasion. The South Korean and U.S. militaries say the drills that began Monday are to practice responses to any potential emergency on the Korean peninsula. U.S. military spokesman Kim Yong-kyu says they involve computer war games, live-firing exercises and other field training. North Korea issued a statement Sunday calling the drills a "dangerous" plot aimed at toppling the North's government. It said if provoked, North Korea would start a "full-scale" war with counterattacks against the allies.

1,000 in candlelight tribute to HK activist Szeto

HONG KONG (AP)—Hundreds of Hong Kongers held aloft white candles at a local park Sunday in tribute to late democracy activist Szeto Wah, a leading campaigner for the victims of Beijing's 1989 crackdown on protesters at Tiananmen Square and a voice for mainland dissidents. About 1,000 mourners gathered at the southern Chinese territory's Victoria Park, watching footage of Szeto and singing songs with pro-democracy themes, including a Chinese version of "We Shall Overcome" with lyrics co-written by Szeto. Szeto died Jan. 2 of lung cancer. Sunday's candlelight vigil was held a day before what would have been his 80th birthday.

Myanmar: Blast injures 4 in capital

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Government security officials say a bomb exploded in a suburb of the capital Yangon, wounding four people.. The officials say a man suspected of carrying the bomb was among those wounded Sunday evening near the Aung Zeya bridge in northern Yangon. A three-year-old girl was also hurt. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they are not authorized to speak to the media. Though terrorism is rare in this junta-ruled nation, there have been several bombings since last year, including three in Yangon that killed nine people and wounded 170. Government officials declined to comment on suspects, but the junta has blamed previous attacks on armed exile groups or ethnic rebels.

World

‘Free Libya’ chants heard in city near capital

ZAWIYA, Libya (AP)—With residents shouting “Free, free Libya,” anti-government rebels who control this battle-scarred city nearest to the capital deployed tanks and anti-aircraft weapons Sunday to brace for an attack by troops loyal to Moammar Gadhafi. The Obama administration offered “any type of assistance” to Libyans seeking to oust the longtime leader.

Politicians in the opposition stronghold of Benghazi set up their first leadership council to manage day-to-day affairs, taking a step toward forming what could be an alternative to Gadhafi’s regime.

In the capital Tripoli, where Gadhafi is still firmly in control, state banks began handing out the equivalent of $400 per family in a bid to shore up public loyalty.

“The Libyan people are fully behind me,” Gadhafi defiantly told Serbian TV, even as about half of the country was turning against him and world leaders moved to isolate him. “A small group (of rebels) is surrounded ... and it will be dealt with.”

Gadhafi has launched by far the bloodiest crackdown in a wave of anti-government uprisings sweeping the Arab world, the most serious challenge to his four decades in power. The United States, Britain and the U.N. Security Council all slapped sanctions on Libya this weekend.

A day after President Barack Obama branded Gadhafi an illegitimate ruler who must leave power immediately, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton kept up pressure for him to step down and “call off the mercenaries” and other troops that remain loyal to him.

“We are just at the beginning of what will follow Gadhafi. ... But we’ve been reaching out to many different Libyans who are attempting to organize in the east and as the revolution moves westward there as well,” Clinton said. “I think it’s way too soon to tell how this is going to play out, but we’re going to be ready and prepared to offer any kind of assistance that anyone wishes to have from the United States.”

Two U.S. senators said Washington should recognize and arm a provisional government in rebel-held areas of eastern Libya and impose a no-fly zone over the area—enforced by U.S. warplanes—to stop attacks by the regime.

Gadhafi’s son, Seif al-Islam, in an interview with U.S. television, insisted that his father won’t relinquish power and that Libya had not used force or airstrikes against its own people.

There were no reports of major violence or clashes on Sunday, although gunfire was heard after nightfall in Tripoli.

The regime, eager to reinforce its view that Libya is calm and under its control, took visiting journalists to Zawiya, 30 miles (50 kilometers) west of the capital of Tripoli on Sunday. The tour, however, confirmed that anti-government rebels control the center of the city of 200,000 people, with army tanks and anti-aircraft guns mounted on pickup trucks at the ready.

Hundreds of people chanted “Gadhafi out!” in central Zawiya, a key city close to an oil port and refineries. It also is the nearest population center to Tripoli to fall into rebel hands.

The charred hulks of cars littered the city, many buildings were pockmarked by bullets, and most streets were blocked by felled palm trees or metal barricades. Police stations and government offices have been torched, and anti-Gadhafi graffiti—labeling him a “mass murderer”—was everywhere. In the main square, an effigy of the leader hung from a light pole with the words “Execute Gadhafi” on its chest.

“To us, Gadhafi is the ‘Dracula’ of Libya,” said Wael al-Oraibi, an army officer in Zawiya who decided to join the rebels in large part after Gadhafi used mercenaries from sub-Saharan Africa against residents of the city.

The mood in Zawiya was generally upbeat, with chants of “Free, free Libya,” although the anticipation of a renewed attempt to retake the city was causing some anxiety among the rebels.

“We are all wanted,” said one rebel at the square who did not want to give his name for fear of reprisals. “Zawiya in our hands is a direct threat to Tripoli.”

On Zawiya’s outskirts were pro-Gadhafi forces, also backed by tanks and anti-aircraft guns.

About 20 miles (30 kilometers) west of Zawiya, some 3,000 pro-Gadhafi demonstrators gathered on the coastal highway, chanting slogans in support of the Libyan leader.

AP

Residents gather around a tank and an armed man on a rooftop flashes the victory sign, as foreign journalists arrive in Zawiya, 30 miles (50 kilometers) west of Tripoli, in Libya Sunday, Feb. 27, 2011.

Rebels and defecting army forces largely consolidated control of Zawiya on Thursday, after an army unit loyal to Gadhafi opened fire on a mosque where residents—some armed with hunting rifles—had been holding a sit-in. The square has become the burial site of six of 11 rebels killed by pro-Gadhafi forces who failed to retake the town that day. Residents reported several skirmishes between both sides since then.

At least six checkpoints controlled by troops loyal to Gadhafi stood on the road from Tripoli to Zawiya. Each one was reinforced by at least one tank, with troops who concealed their faces with scarves.

Before Zawiya fell to rebel forces, Gadhafi had scolded its residents on Thursday, saying they were in league with terror mastermind Osama bin Laden.

“Shame on you, people of Zawiya. Control your children,” he said.

“They are loyal to bin Laden,” he said of those involved in the uprising. “What do you have to do with bin Laden, people of Zawiya? They are exploiting young people. ... I insist it is bin Laden.”

In Libya’s second-largest city of Benghazi, politicians said Sunday they are setting up a council to run day-to-day affairs in the eastern half of the country under their control. It was seen as the first attempt to create a leadership body that could eventually form an alternative to the Gadhafi government.

Former Justice Minister Mustafa Abdel-Jalil, who defected from the Gadhafi regime, said Saturday he was setting up a provisional government.

But a prominent human rights lawyer, Abdel-Hafidh Ghoga, held a news conference to shoot down the claim, saying instead that politicians in the east were establishing the transitional council only to manage daily life in the rebel-controlled areas until Gadhafi falls.

Gadhafi blasted sanctions against his country and vowed to stay in power, telling Serbia’s private Pink TV in a telephone interview that “the Libyan people are still behind me.”

“Currently in Libya there are no incidents, now everything is quiet,” Gadhafi said.

His son, Seif al-Islam, again denied in a TV interview that the Libyan regime used force or airstrikes against its own people.

“Show me a single attack. Show me a single bomb,” he told ABC’s “This Week.” “The Libyan air force destroyed just the ammunition sites. That’s it.”

Human rights groups and European officials have put the death toll since unrest began in Libya nearly two weeks ago at hundreds—perhaps thousands—although it has been virtually impossible to verify the numbers.

The British-educated Seif al-Islam is the most visible of Gadhafi’s children and has been acting as a spokesman for the regime.

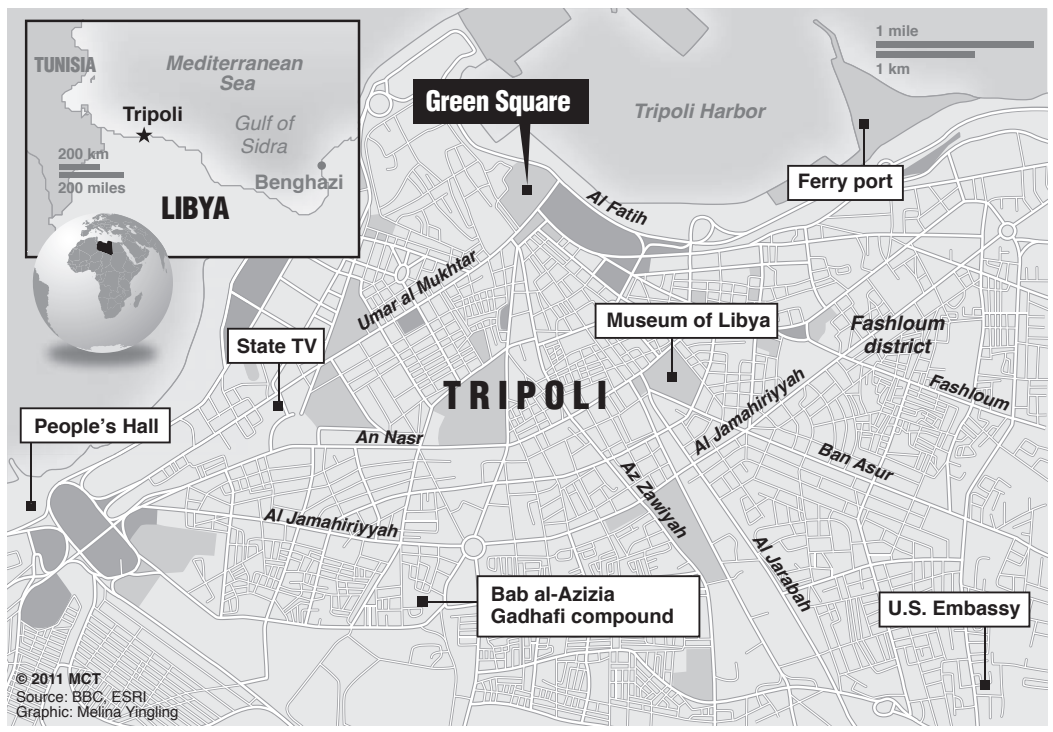
“The whole south is calm. The west is calm. The middle is calm. Even part of the east,” he said.

Asked about Obama’s call for his father to step down, he said: “It’s not an American business, that’s No. 1. Second, do they think this is a solution? Of course not.”

As for the U.S. freeze of Libyan assets, he said: “First of all, we don’t have money outside. We are a very modest family and everybody knows that.”

Libya’s Foreign Ministry said it regretted the U.N. Security Council resolution, saying it was based on “untrue media reports.”

Gadhafi loyalists remain in control of Tripoli, where most stores were closed and long lines formed outside the few banks open for business.



WORLD BRIEFS

Tunisia’s president appoints new prime minister

TUNIS, Tunisia (AP)—Tunisia’s interim president chose a former government minister as a new prime minister on Sunday, appealing for a return to calm following new violent protests that have been hobbling this North African country since the ouster of its long-time autocratic leader. Beji Caid-Essebsi will replace Mohammed Ghannouchi, who resigned earlier Sunday after becoming a major irritant to Tunisians behind the so-called “Jasmine Revolution” that toppled autocratic President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali last month and sparked a wave of upheaval in the Arab world. The caretaker president, Fouad Mebazaa, made the appointment later Sunday.

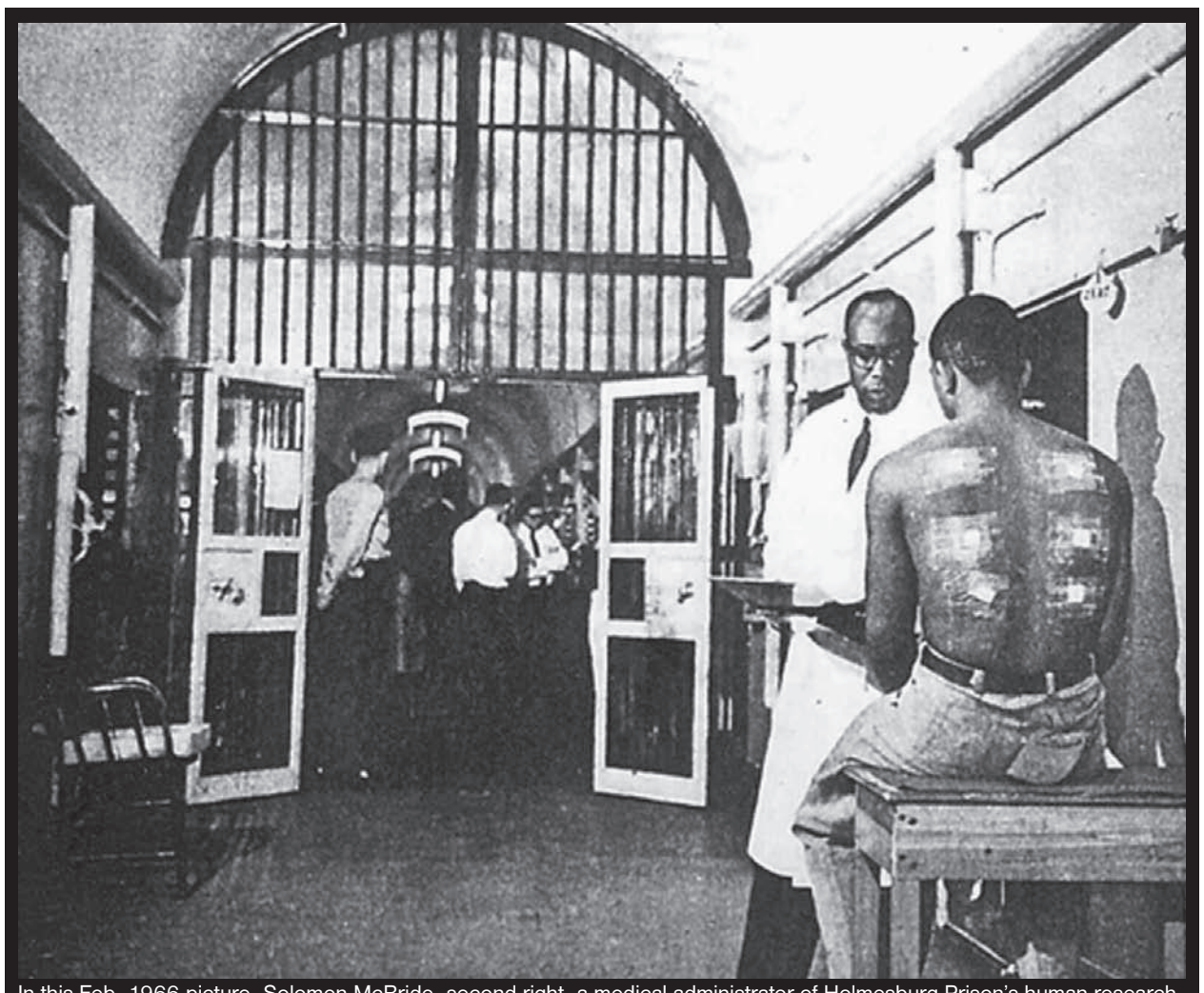
Oman clashes widen protest rumblings in Gulf

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—Protests against the tight grip of Gulf rulers widened Sunday as riot police in Oman battled pro-democracy demonstrators in a deadly clash that sharply raised tensions in the region. Tiny Bahrain is already in turmoil and giant Saudi Arabia is seeking to hold back calls for reforms. The Gulf protests have shaken the once-comfortable command of various monarchs and sheiks. An ever deeper and sustained political revolt would thrust the Arab world’s uprising into the heart of the region’s oil riches and Washington’s front-line allies against Iran. The U.S. has long counted on the Gulf’s rulers as reliable partners—particularly their common ground over concerns about Iran’s efforts to expand its influence. No ruling system has given way, but cracks are evident.

Weekend attacks leave at least 28 dead in Mexico

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Suspected drug-related violence left at least 28 people dead across Mexico over the weekend, including 14 killed by gunmen in bars in the country’s north, authorities said Sunday. In Coahuila state, across the U.S. border from Texas, nine men died late Saturday when gunmen opened fire inside two bars in separate attacks, state prosecutors said in a statement. Eleven others were wounded. Assailants killed another five men late Saturday in a bar in the cartel-plagued border city of Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua state prosecutors’ spokesman Arturo Sandoval said.

Focus



In this Feb, 1966 picture, Solomon McBride, second right, a medical administrator of Holmesburg Prison's human research, questions a test subject at the facility in Philadelphia. The prison made extensive use of inmates for medical experiments. AP

Past medical testing on humans in US revealed

By MIKE STOBBE
AP MEDICAL WRITER

AP IMPACT

Shocking as it may seem, U.S. government doctors once thought it was fine to experiment on disabled people and prison inmates. Such experiments included giving hepatitis to mental patients in Connecticut, squirting a pandemic flu virus up the noses of prisoners in Maryland, and injecting cancer cells into chronically ill people at a New York hospital.

Much of this horrific history is 40 to 80 years old, but it is the backdrop for a meeting in Washington this week by a presidential bioethics commission. The meeting was triggered by the government's apology last fall for federal doctors infecting prisoners and mental patients in Guatemala with syphilis 65 years ago.

U.S. officials also acknowledged there had been dozens of similar experiments in the United States—studies that often involved making healthy people sick.

An exhaustive review by The Associated Press of medical journal reports and decades-old press clippings found more than 40 such studies. At best, these were a search for lifesaving treatments; at worst, some amounted to curiosity-satisfying experiments that hurt people but provided no useful results.

Inevitably, they will be compared to the well-known Tuskegee syphilis study. In that episode, U.S. health officials tracked 600 black men in Alabama who already had syphilis but didn't give them adequate treatment even after penicillin became available.

These studies were worse in at least one respect—they violated the concept of "first do no harm," a fundamental medical principle that stretches back centuries.

"When you give somebody a disease—even by the standards of their time—you really cross the key ethical norm of the profession," said Arthur Caplan, director of the University of Pennsylvania's Center for Bioethics.

Some of these studies, mostly from the 1940s to the '60s, apparently were never covered by news media. Others were reported at the time, but the focus was on the promise of enduring new cures, while glossing over how test subjects were treated.

Attitudes about medical research were different then. Infectious diseases killed many more people years ago, and doctors worked urgently to invent and test cures. Many prominent researchers felt it was legitimate to experiment on people who did not have full rights in society—people like prisoners, mental patients, poor blacks. It was an attitude in some ways similar to that of Nazi doctors experimenting on Jews.

"There was definitely a sense—that we don't have today—that sacrifice for the nation was important," said Laura Stark, a Wesleyan University assistant professor of science in society, who is writing a book about past federal medical experiments.

The AP review of past research found:

■ A federally funded study begun in 1942 injected experimental flu vaccine in male patients at a state insane asylum in Ypsilanti, Mich., then exposed them to flu several months later. It was co-authored by Dr. Jonas Salk, who a decade later would become famous as inventor of the polio vaccine.

Some of the men weren't able to describe their symptoms, raising serious questions about how well they understood what was being done to them. One newspaper account mentioned the test subjects were "senile and debilitated." Then it quickly moved on to the promising results.

■ In federally funded studies in the 1940s, noted researcher Dr. W. Paul Havens Jr. exposed men to hepatitis in a series of experiments, including one using patients from mental institutions in Middletown and Norwich, Conn. Havens, a World Health Organization expert on viral diseases, was one of the first scientists to differentiate types of hepatitis and their causes.

A search of various news archives found no mention of the mental patients study, which made eight healthy men ill but broke no new ground in understanding the disease.

■ Researchers in the mid-1940s studied the transmission of a deadly stomach bug by having young men swallow unfiltered stool suspension. The study was conducted at the New York State Vocational Institution, a reformatory prison in West Coxsackie. The point was to see how well the disease spread that way as compared to spraying the germs and having test subjects breathe it. Swallowing it was a more effective way to spread the disease, the researchers concluded. The study doesn't explain if the men were rewarded for this awful task.

■ A University of Minnesota study in the late 1940s injected 11 public service employee volunteers with malaria, then starved them for five days. Some were also subjected to hard labor, and those men lost an average of 14 pounds. They were treated for malarial fevers with quinine sulfate. One of the authors was Ancel Keys, a noted dietary scientist who developed K-rations for the military and the Mediterranean diet for the public. But a search of various news archives found no mention of the study.

■ For a study in 1957, when the Asian flu pandemic was spreading, federal researchers sprayed the virus in the noses of 23 inmates at Patuxent prison in Jessup, Md., to compare their reactions to those of 32 virus-exposed inmates who had been given a new vaccine.

■ Government researchers in the 1950s tried to infect about two dozen volunteering prison inmates with gonorrhea using two different methods in an experiment at a federal penitentiary in Atlanta. The bacteria was pumped directly into the urinary tract through the penis, according to their paper.

The men quickly developed the disease, but the researchers noted this method wasn't comparable to how men normally got infected—by having sex with an infected partner. The men were later treated with antibiotics. The study was published in the Journal of the American Medical Association, but there was no mention of it in various news archives.

Though people in the studies were usually described as volunteers, historians and ethicists have questioned how well these people understood what was to be done to them and why, or whether they were coerced.

Prisoners have long been victimized for the sake of science. In 1915, the U.S. government's Dr. Joseph Goldberger—today remembered as a public health hero—recruited Mississippi inmates to go on special rations to prove his theory that the painful illness pellagra was caused by a dietary deficiency. (The men were offered pardons for their participation.)

But studies using prisoners were uncommon in the first few decades of the 20th century, and usually performed by researchers considered eccentric even by the standards of the day. One was Dr. L.L. Stanley, resident physician at San Quentin prison in California, who around 1920 attempted to treat older, "devitalized men" by implanting in them testicles from livestock and from recently executed convicts.

Newspapers wrote about Stanley's experiments, but the lack of outrage is striking.

"Enter San Quentin penitentiary in the role of the Fountain of Youth—an institution where the years are made to roll back for men of failing mentality and vitality and where the spring is restored to the step, wit to the brain, vigor to the muscles and ambition to the spirit. All this has been done, is being done ... by a surgeon with a scalpel," began one rosy report published in November 1919 in The Washington Post.

Around the time of World War II, prisoners were enlisted to help the war effort by taking part in studies that could help the troops. For example, a series of malaria studies at Stateville Penitentiary in Illinois and two other prisons was designed to test antimalarial drugs that could help soldiers fighting in the Pacific.

It was at about this time that prosecution of Nazi doctors in 1947 led to the "Nuremberg Code," a set of international rules to protect human test subjects. Many U.S. doctors essentially ignored them, arguing that they applied to Nazi atrocities—not to American medicine.

The late 1940s and 1950s saw huge growth in the U.S. pharmaceutical and health care industries, accompanied by a boom in prisoner experiments funded by both the government and corporations. By the 1960s, at least half the states allowed prisoners to be used as medical guinea pigs.

But two studies in the 1960s proved to be turning points in the public's attitude toward the way test subjects were treated.

The first came to light in 1963. Researchers injected cancer cells into 19 old and debilitated patients at a Jewish Chronic Disease Hospital in the New York borough of Brooklyn to see if their bodies would reject them.

The hospital director said the patients were not told they were being injected with cancer cells because there was no need—the cells were deemed harmless. But the experiment upset a lawyer named William Hyman who sat on the hospital's board of directors. The state investigated, and the hospital ultimately said any such experiments would require the patient's written consent.

At nearby Staten Island, from 1963 to 1966, a controversial medical study was conducted at the Willowbrook State School for children with mental retardation. The children were intentionally given hepatitis orally and by injection to see if they could then be cured with gamma globulin.

Those two studies—along with the Tuskegee experiment revealed in 1972—proved to be a "holy trinity" that sparked extensive and critical media coverage and public disgust, said Susan Reverby, the Wellesley College historian who first discovered records of the syphilis study in Guatemala.

By the early 1970s, even experiments involving prisoners were considered scandalous. In widely covered congressional hearings in 1973, pharmaceutical industry officials acknowledged they were using prisoners for testing

See PAST on Page 18

Overdrive

2011 KIA SPORTAGE

Bigger, sleeker, with attitude

By BARRY SPYKER
THE MIAMI HERALD

The 2011 Sportage is bigger, more aggressive-looking.

As soon as I saw preview photos of this bigger, more aggressive-looking 2011 Sportage, I couldn't wait to get into one. Kia, Hyundai's little brother, did a wonderful job with the redesign of this small crossover. Its new lines are sleek, and its grille and stance give it some attitude. Just what the Sportage—well, the entire segment—needed.

And the successes go beyond its external flash: Kia has improved its insides with a more comfortable and upscale feel.

Most of the surfaces have a softer, richer feel this year, including the leather-wrapped steering wheel. Yet I was surprised that Kia finished the center console with a cheaper-feeling hard plastic.

All the controls are conveniently laid out and simple to use.

Seating is comfortable, with nice lumbar support for trips, and my tester had an attractive plaid fabric trimmed in black. Optional is an air-cooled driver's seat that cools down the backrest and seat cushion.

Back-seat room is decent, though squeezing a third passenger in the middle in this so-called five-seater might be pushing it. The rear seat does not slide back and forth, either, as it does in Sportage's foes.

The seats do, however, fold down easily to open up 54 cubic feet of space, roomy enough for the golf clubs plus the groceries.

The Sportage is reasonably fun to drive. It has a suspension that is on the stiff side, which provides good road feel and dynamics but sacrifices some comfort. And you might go easy on corners, as there's some roll to this little SUV.

This is a front-wheel-drive vehicle but a pretty good all-wheel-drive system, called Dynamax, is an option. It examines road conditions and redistributes torque to the wheels that are gripping best.

Steering is too lightweight, enough so that I felt at times I had to correct and recorrect on the highway. The six-speed automatic tranny shifts through the gears without much hesitation and smoothly, too.

No more V-6 for Sportage this year. But there's even more power with the 2.4-liter inline-4 that produces 176 hp 168 pound-feet of torque.

Still, a bit of patience is in order: 0-60 figures surpass 9 seconds. And I found it a bit sluggish in the passing lanes as well.

The benefit comes in the decent mileage, rated at 22 mpg city and 31 on the open road.

Driving enthusiasts should know a 2.0-liter turbocharged inline-4, featuring 270 ponies, has just arrived. It should be considerably more spirited.

A multitude of safety features are standard with the Sportage, including front and side air bags, side-curtain bags, traction and stability control, and even hill descent. It scored well on Insurance Highway Safety Institute tests for front- and side-impact protection, too.

The base Sportage gets aluminum wheels, power seats, tilt steering wheel, and six-speaker audio system with Bluetooth. Move up to the LX t get 17-inch wheels, keyless entry and redundant turn signals on the rearview mirrors.

The sportier EX adds daytime running lights and fog lights, rear spoiler and a leather-wrapped wheel that telescopes, too.

An optional premium package is a bit pricey at $3,000, but offers leather seats, a broad sunroof, parking sensors (which I found unnecessary) and cargo cover.

What's the difference between turbocharger, supercharger?

By STEVEN COLE SMITH
THE ORLANDO SENTINEL

QUESTION: Is there any reason why I can't buy a good full-sized tire and wheel and keep it in the trunk, instead of having to use that little doughnut temporary spare? I had one fail once and I don't think they are safe.—Cal Sherman, Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

ANSWER: No, no reason, if you don't mind the extra weight and the room it takes up. Just be sure to secure the spare in the trunk. There is usually some electrical wiring and such back there, and it can be damaged by a tire and wheel that is bouncing around loose.

■ ■ ■ ■

Q: Can you explain the difference between a turbo and a supercharger, and is one is better than the other?—Carlos

A: The end result is the same: to get more power from an engine, without increasing the size of it. And the method is essentially the same—to force a gas-air mixture into the engine under pressure, making the engine work harder to burn it, thus increasing horsepower.

But the supercharger uses a pump to create that pressure that's typically driven by a belt or a gear powered by the engine. The turbocharger creates pressure using the already-burned exhaust gas that is coming out of the engine to turn the blades of a fan that forces the mixture into the engine.

Oversimplifying, the supercharger is good because the horsepower boost is there immediately, while the turbocharger takes a moment to "spool up" from the exhaust gas. But the supercharger takes power away from the engine, and the turbo doesn't. One knock against turbos: Re-using that exhaust gas creates a lot of under-hood heat. And almost always, you need to use premium gas on turbocharged or supercharged engines.

There are kits to add a supercharger or turbo to many popular engine models, such as the Honda Civic or Mazda Miata. Check ads in sports car publications like "Grassroots Motorsports" magazine. But if your car is still under factory warranty, adding one will likely void it.

Steven Cole Smith is the automotive editor at the Orlando Sentinel *in Florida. Send questions to scsmith@orlandosentinel.com.*

PAST

From Page 17

because they were cheaper than chimpanzees.

Holmesburg Prison in Philadelphia made extensive use of inmates for medical experiments. Some of the victims are still around to talk about it. Edward "Yusef" Anthony, featured in a book about the studies, says he agreed to have a layer of skin peeled off his back, which was coated with searing chemicals to test a drug. He did that for money to buy cigarettes in prison.

"I said 'Oh my God, my back is on fire! Take this ... off me!'" Anthony said in an interview with The Associated Press, as he recalled the beginning of weeks of intense itching and agonizing pain.

The government responded with reforms. Among them: The U.S. Bureau of Prisons in the mid-1970s effectively excluded all research by drug companies and other outside agencies within federal prisons.

As the supply of prisoners and mental patients dried up, researchers looked to other countries.

It made sense. Clinical trials could be done more cheaply and with fewer rules. And it was easy to find patients who were taking no medication, a factor that can complicate tests of other drugs.

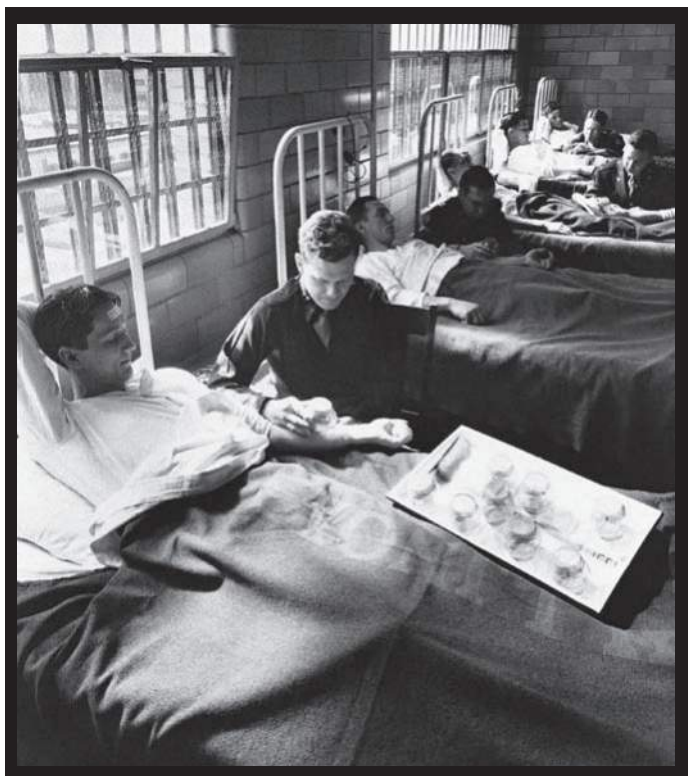
Additional sets of ethical guidelines have been enacted, and few believe that another Guatemala study could happen today. "It's not that we're out infecting anybody with things," Caplan said.

Still, in the last 15 years, two international studies sparked outrage.

One was likened to Tuskegee. U.S.-funded doctors failed to give the AIDS drug AZT to all the HIV-infected pregnant women in a study in Uganda even though it would have protected their newborns. U.S. health officials argued the study would answer questions about AZT's use in the developing world.

The other study, by Pfizer Inc., gave an antibiotic named Trovan to children with meningitis in Nigeria, although there were doubts about its effectiveness for that disease. Critics blamed the experiment for the deaths of 11 children and the disabling of scores of others. Pfizer settled a lawsuit with Nigerian officials for $75 million but admitted no wrongdoing.

Last year, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' inspector general reported that between 40 and 65 percent of clinical studies of federally regulated medical products were done in other countries in 2008, and that proportion probably has grown. The report also noted that U.S. regulators inspected fewer than 1 percent of foreign clinical trial sites.



In this June 25, 1945 picture, army doctors expose patients to malaria-carrying mosquitoes in the malaria ward at Stateville Penitentiary in Crest Hill, Ill. AP

Monitoring research is complicated, and rules that are too rigid could slow new drug development. But it's often hard to get information on international trials, sometimes because of missing records and a paucity of audits, said Dr. Kevin Schulman, a Duke University professor of medicine who has written on the ethics of international studies.

These issues were still being debated when, last October, the Guatemala study came to light.

In the 1946-48 study, American scientists infected prisoners and patients in a mental hospital in Guatemala with syphilis, apparently to test whether penicillin could prevent some sexually transmitted disease. The study came up with no useful information and was hidden for decades.

The Guatemala study nauseated ethicists on multiple levels. Beyond infecting patients with a terrible illness, it was clear that people in the study did not understand what was being done to them or were not able to give their consent. Indeed, though it happened at a time when scientists were quick to publish research that showed frank disinterest in the rights of study participants, this study was buried in file drawers.

"It was unusually unethical, even at the time," said Stark, the Wesleyan researcher.

"When the president was briefed on the details of the Guatemalan episode, one of his first questions was whether this sort of thing could still happen today," said Rick Weiss, a spokesman for the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy.

That it occurred overseas was an opening for the Obama administration to have the bioethics panel seek a new evaluation of international medical studies. The president also asked the Institute of Medicine to further probe the Guatemala study, but the IOM relinquished the assignment in November, after reporting its own conflict of interest: In the 1940s, five members of one of the IOM's sister organizations played prominent roles in federal syphilis research and had links to the Guatemala study.

So the bioethics commission gets both tasks. To focus on federally funded international studies, the commission has formed an international panel of about a dozen experts in ethics, science and clinical research. Regarding the look at the Guatemala study, the commission has hired 15 staff investigators and is working with additional historians and other consulting experts.

The panel is to send a report to Obama by September. Any further steps would be up to the administration.

Some experts say that given such a tight deadline, it would be a surprise if the commission produced substantive new information about past studies. "They face a really tough challenge," Caplan said.

AP news researchers Susan James and Julie Reed Bell contributed to this report.

Life & Style

‘King’s Speech’ wins best-picture, 3 other Oscars

By DAVID GERMAIN
AP MOVIE WRITER

LOS ANGELES (AP)—“The King’s Speech” was crowned best picture Sunday at an Academy Awards ceremony as precise as a state coronation, the monarchy drama leading as expected with four Oscars and predictable favorites claiming acting honors.

Colin Firth as stammering British ruler George VI in “The King’s Speech” earned the best-actor prize, while Natalie Portman won best actress as a delusional ballerina in “Black Swan.”

The boxing drama “The Fighter” claimed both supporting-acting honors, for Christian Bale as a boxer-turned-drug-abuser and Melissa Leo as a boxing clan’s domineering matriarch.

“The King’s Speech” also won the directing prize for Tom Hooper and the original-screenplay Oscar for David Seidler, a boyhood stutterer himself.

“I have a feeling my career’s just peaked,” Firth said. “I’m afraid I have to warn you that I’m experiencing stirrings somewhere in the upper abdominals which are threatening to form themselves into dance moves.”

Among those Portman beat was Annette Bening for “The Kids Are All Right.” Bening now has lost all four times she’s been nominated.

“Thank you so much. This is insane, and I truly, sincerely wish that the prize tonight was to get to work with my fellow nominees. I’m so in awe of you,” Portman said.

Network censors bleeped Leo for dropping the F-word during her speech. Backstage, she jokingly conceded it was “probably a very inappropriate place to use that particular word.”

“Those words, I apologize to anyone that they offend. There is a great deal of the English language that is in my vernacular,” Leo said.

Bale joked that he was keeping his language clean. “I’m not going to drop the F-bomb like she did,” he said. “I’ve done that plenty of times before.”

But the Oscars, being a global affair, were telecast elsewhere in the world with Leo’s words uncensored. Viewers who watched the show on Star Movies, a major channel available throughout Asia, heard the F-word loud and clear.

Hooper, a relative big-screen newcomer best known for classy TV drama, took the industry’s top filmmaking prize over Hollywood veteran David Fincher, who had been a strong prospect for his Facebook drama “The Social Network.”

The prize was presented by last year’s winner, Kathryn Bigelow, the first woman to earn a directing Oscar.

“Thank you to my wonderful actors, the triangle of man love which is Colin Firth, Geoffrey Rush and me. I’m only here because of you guys,” Hooper said, referring to his film’s male stars.

Leo’s win capped an unusual career surge in middle age for the 50-year-old actress, who had moderate success on TV’s “Homicide: Life on the Street” in her 30s but leaped to big-screen stardom in her late 40s, a time when most actresses find good roles hard to come by.

In disbelief when she took the stage, Leo said, “Pinch me.” Hollywood legend Kirk Douglas, who presented her award, obliged with a little pinch on her arm.

Bale earned the same prize his Batman co-star, the late Heath Ledger, received posthumously two years ago for “The Dark Knight.” At the time, Bale had fondly recalled a bit of professional envy as he watched Ledger perform on set like a whirlwind as the diabolical Joker while the film’s star had to remain clenched up as the stoic, tightly wound Batman.

“The Fighter” gave Bale his turn to unleash some demons as Dicky Eklund, a boxer whose career unraveled amid crime and drug abuse. Bale delivers a showy performance full of tics and tremors, bobbing and weaving around the movie’s star and producer, Mark Wahlberg, who plays Eklund’s stolid brother, boxer Micky Ward.

The screenplay win capped a lifelong dream for “King’s Speech” writer Seidler, a boyhood stutterer born in London in 1937, a year after George took the throne. Seidler, who overcame his own stutter at age 16, had long vowed to one day write about the monarch whose fortitude set an example for him in childhood.

SeidlerthankedQueen Elizabeth II, daughter of King George, “For not putting me in the Tower of London for using the Melissa Leo F-word.” The film includes two scenes where the king spouts profanity in anger to help force out his syllables.

The Oscar for adapted screenplay went to Aaron Sorkin for “The Social Network,” a chronicle of the birth of Facebook based on Ben Mezrich’s book “The Accidental Billionaires.” “The Social Network” also won for musical score for Trent Reznor and Atticus Ross, and for film editing.

The sci-fi blockbuster “Inception,” which came in with eight nominations, tied with “The Kings Speech” with four Oscars, all in technical categories: visual effects, cinematography, sound editing and sound mixing.

“Inside Job,” an exploration of the 2008 economic meltdown, won for best documentary, which proved an uncommonly lively category this time.

The Oscar buildup featured speculation about whether Banksy, a mystery man of the street-art world, might show up for his awards entry, “Exit Through the Gift Shop.” If he was at the Oscars, he did not declare himself.

But it was the topic on most people’s minds the last two years, the economy, that resonated among Oscar voters. “Inside Job” director Charles Ferguson subjected Wall Street players, economists and bureaucrats to a fierce cross-examination to depict the economic crisis as a colossal crime perpetrated on the working-class masses by a greedy few.

“Forgive me, I must start by pointing out that three years after our horrific financial crisis caused by financial fraud, not a single financial executive has gone to jail, and that’s wrong,” Ferguson said.

“Toy Story 3,” last year’s top-grossing release and a contender for best picture, won the fourth-straight animated-feature Oscar for Disney’s Pixar Animation unit. Pixar has produced six of the 10 Oscar recipients for animation since the category was added, including “Finding Nemo,” “WALL-E” and last year’s winner, “Up.”

It was an odd backdrop for a Pixar win, the Oscar ceremony using visual effects to present the award in front of a re-creation of Far Far Away, the fairy-tale realm of Disney rival DreamWorks Animation’s “Shrek” movies. The original “Shrek” won the first Oscar for feature animation, but unlike the durable “Toy Story” franchise, the “Shrek” series finished with a critical dud, last year’s “Shrek Forever After.”

Reuniting voice stars Tom Hanks and Tim Allen, “Toy Story 3” was the latest follow-up to the 1995 film that launched today’s era of feature-length computer animation.

The Oscar for foreign-language film went to Danish filmmaker Susanne Bier’s “In a Better World,” a saga of two broken families that centers on two teenage boys struggling with violence at school and plotting revenge.

The Lewis Carroll update “Alice in Wonderland” won the first prize of the night, claiming the art direction Oscar. It also won for costume design.

The show opened with co-hosts Anne Hathaway and James Franco inserted into a montage of scenes from best-picture nominees, built as a series of dream sequences reminiscent of “Inception.” The footage included such guests as Morgan Freeman and last year’s Oscar co-host Alec Baldwin.

Franco started off telling Hathaway how beautiful she looked. Hathaway shot back, “You look very appealing to a younger demographic, as well.”

AP

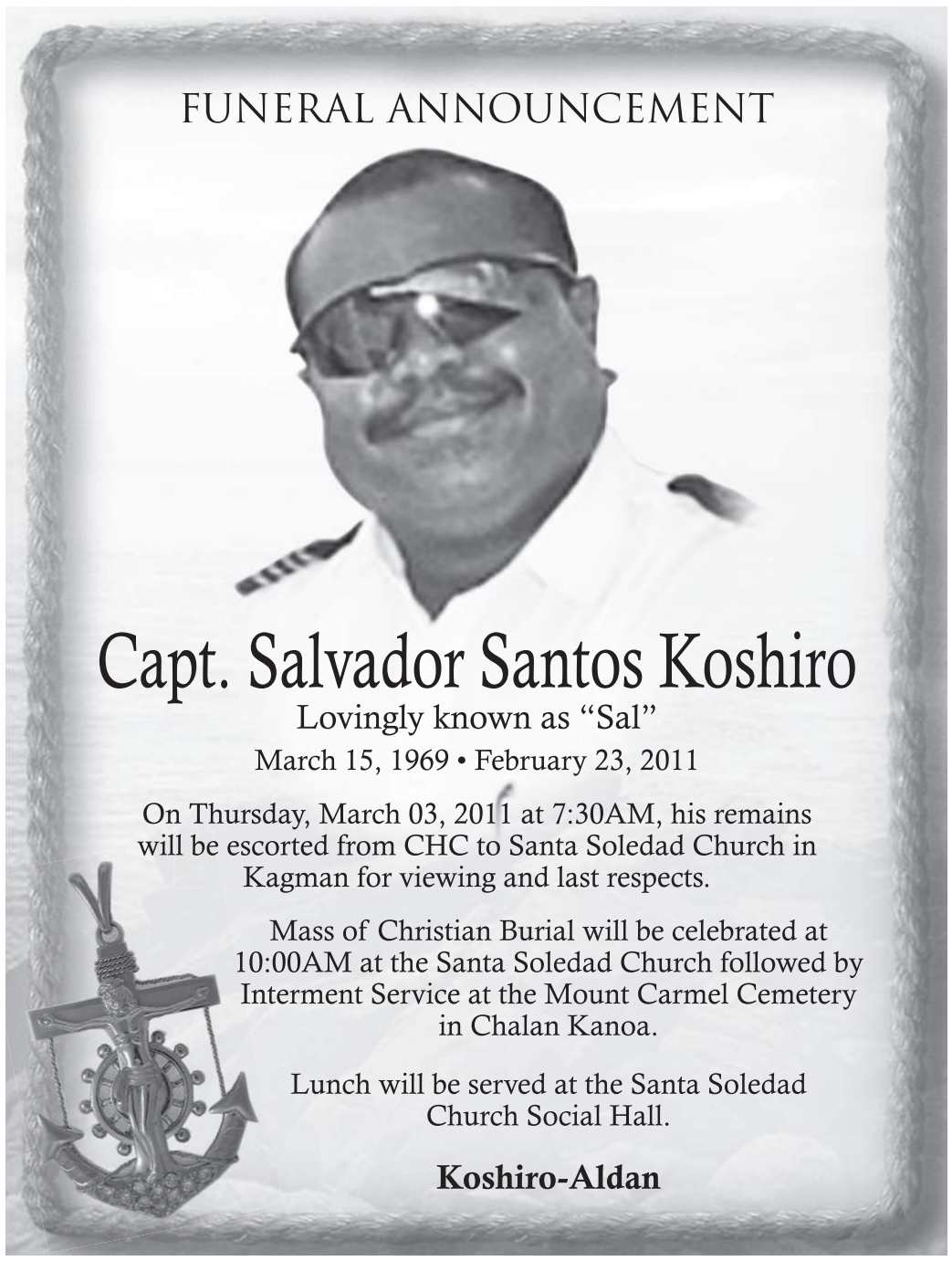
Christian Bale, left, best supporting actor, Natalie Portman, best actress, second from left, Melissa Leo, best supporting actress, and Colin Firth, best actor, pose backstage with their Oscars at the 83rd Academy Awards on Sunday, Feb. 27, 2011, in the Hollywood section of Los Angeles.

WINNERS’ LIST

List of the 83rd Annual Academy Award winners announced Sunday:

Best Picture: “The King’s Speech.”
Actor: Colin Firth, “The King’s Speech.”
Actress: Natalie Portman, “Black Swan.”
Supporting Actor: Christian Bale, “The Fighter.”
Supporting Actress: Melissa Leo, “The Fighter.”
Directing: Tom Hooper, “The King’s Speech.”
Foreign Language Film: “In a Better World,” Denmark.
Adapted Screenplay: Aaron Sorkin, “The Social Network.”
Original Screenplay: David Seidler, “The King’s Speech.”
Animated Feature Film: “Toy Story 3.”
Art Direction: “Alice in Wonderland.”
Cinematography: “Inception.”
Sound Mixing: “Inception.”
Sound Editing: “Inception.”
Original Score: “The Social Network,” Trent Reznor and Atticus Ross.
Original Song: “We Belong Together” from “Toy Story 3,” Randy Newman.
Costume Design: “Alice in Wonderland.”
Documentary Feature: “Inside Job.”
Documentary (short subject): “Strangers No More.”
Film Editing: “The Social Network.”
Makeup: “The Wolfman.”
Animated Short Film: “The Lost Thing.”
Live Action Short Film: “God of Love.”
Visual Effects: “Inception.”
Previously presented honorary Oscars: film historian and preservationist Kevin Brownlow, director-producer Francis Ford Coppola, director Jean-Luc Godard and actor Eli Wallach.

The Associated Press


FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT
Capt. Salvador Santos Koshiro
Lovingly known as “Sal”
March 15, 1969 • February 23, 2011
On Thursday, March 03, 2011 at 7:30AM, his remains will be escorted from CHC to Santa Soledad Church in Kagman for viewing and last respects.
Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00AM at the Santa Soledad Church followed by Interment Service at the Mount Carmel Cemetery in Chalan Kanoa.
Lunch will be served at the Santa Soledad Church Social Hall.
Koshiro-Aldan

Stars' gowns danced down the Oscar red carpet

By SAMANTHA CRITCHELL
AP FASHION WRITER

"Black Swan" graced the Oscars on Sunday night in several ways: Besides Natalie Portman in her Rodarte violet-colored draped gown in silk chiffon with Swarovski crystals, co-star Mila Kunis wore a very low-cut, lingerie-style Elie Saab gown in lavender with lace details. But other stars had a bit of a dancer vibe, including Mandy Moore in a gold-beaded, illusion gown by Monique Lhuillier and Hailee Steinfeld's custom-made Marchesa.

Steinfeld accessorized her crystal-covered, hand-embroidered, tea-length tulle dress in pale pink with a ballerina-style, diamond-and-platinum Fred Leighton headband.

"Hailee Steinfeld made the perfect choice—in its endearingness and sincerity," said Susan Cernek, executive online fashion editor for Glamour.

And, added Cernek, "Natalie Portman was as gorgeous and amazing as you'd think." The gown by Laura and Kate Mulleavy made skillful use of a delicate neckline to draw attention from the empire waist that is pretty standard for maternity dresses, she observed, and the Tiffany & Co. tassel earrings were a perfect complement.

There was some controversy ahead of the Academy Awards about "Black Swan"—and who should get the credit for its very influential looks. Rodarte did design some of the outfits, but Amy Westcott was the film's official costume designer.

"Natalie Portman was making a personal choice. She calls the Rodarte designers 'friends,'" Cernek says.

Another big statement on the red carpet at the Kodak Theatre in Los Angeles was host Anne Hathaway in a big, attention-grabbing strapless red gown from the Valentino archives.

Gwyneth Paltrow's metallic, embroidered sheath gown with a slit-style V neck by Calvin Klein's Francisco Costa hit the trend of a more seductive, sophisticated Oscars look versus flashy, skin-baring styles.

"Mostly I think people looked really good. They went couture and body conscious, not overtly sexy," said Hal Rubenstein, fashion director of InStyle magazine. "There was a lot of sheer, a lot of high necks. ... There was no real clunker in the bunch."

The higher neckline of Amy Adams' L'Wren Scott gown, covered in purple caviar beads with a back-hem slit, was contrasted by her chunky pendant necklace. "It was a '40s Shanghai nightclub—sexy but quite covered up," said Cernek.

Actress Natalie Portman arrives before the 83rd Academy Awards on Sunday, Feb. 27, 2011, in the Hollywood section of Los Angeles. AP

QUOTABLE QUOTES

Quotes from Sunday night's 83rd annual Academy Awards at the Kodak Theatre in Los Angeles:

"My father always said to me I'd be a late bloomer. I believe I'm the oldest person to win this award. I hope that record is broken quickly and often."—David Seidler, winning best original screenplay for "The King's Speech."

■■■■

"In a room of talented, inspirational people, what the hell am I doing here next to you?"—Christian Bale, winner of the Oscar for best supporting actor.

■■■■

"Forgive me, I must start by pointing out that three years after our horrific financial crisis caused by financial fraud, not a single financial executive has gone to jail, and that's wrong."—Charles Ferguson, winner of best documentary feature for "Inside Job."

■■■■

"It's made me a better person. I'm more patient, more accommodating."—Sandra Bullock, speaking about motherhood, on the Oscar red carpet.

■■■■

"I should've got a haircut."—Luke Matheny, winner of the Oscar for live action short film for "God of Love."

■■■■

"I never expected this after 48 years of acting ... I can't believe it."—Jacki Weaver, nominee for best supporting actress for "Animal Kingdom" on the red carpet.

■■■■

"I couldn't feel any more like a princess slash movie star slash luckiest girl in the world."—Oscar co-host Anne Hathaway, on the red carpet. ***(The Associated Press)***

"The one thing we're seeing a consistent amount of is silhouettes fitted to their bodies, whether it's romantic or structured," said stylist Cristina Ehrlich, who worked with Adams.

Melissa Leo's Marc Bouwer gown, which had a collar-style neckline, was an atypical choice of this most classic and glamorous occasion of the awards-show season.

Reese Witherspoon channeled a bit of Brigitte Bardot in her black gown by Giorgio Armani Prive with a white band around the strapless bustline, and Hilary Swank's strapless, gray Gucci had the unexpected twist of delicate feathers at the hemline.

Oscar.com fashion expert Tom Julian put Scarlett Johansson and her deep-magenta, stretch-lace gown by Dolce & Gabbana at the top of his list. (He gave his best-tux prize to Tom Ford's fitted suit on Justin Timberlake.)

"Glamorous reds, regal and rich purples, and modern metallics took over this year's red carpet," Julian said.

Also in red were Penelope Cruz in a sequined L'Wren Scott and Sandra Bullock, wearing a sculptured, strapless Vera Wang.

Jennifer Lawrence surely raised her profile status in a slinky, scoopneck, fire-engine red Calvin Klein gown. It wasn't the usual Oscar-glam look. She looked more like a '70s swimsuit pinup—except for the 42 carats of Chopard yellow diamonds on her wrist—but it worked for her.

Jennifer Hudson showed off her slimmed-down figure in a tangerine-orange halter gown by Versace. "It was a great way to say, 'Guess what? I'm a star, I've got the power and I'm fierce," said style expert Suze Yalof Schwartz. "It was the ultimate makeover dress."

If her dress didn't do it, then her jewels did. Jeweler Neil Lane valued her 20-carat ring, long, basket earrings, and bracelets at $1 million.

Cate Blanchett went the couture route in Givenchy by Riccardo Tisci. The pleated, pale-wisteria dress was embroidered with pearls, crystals covered in leather and a swath of yellow beads around the neck.

InStyle's Rubenstein thinks Michelle Williams' beaded Chanel Couture gown will end up the controversial choice in next-day conversations, but it doesn't deserve it. "I think Michelle Williams' dress doesn't show up well in photos, but if you could see the iridescent beading, it's an extraordinary piece of work. It photographs very, very simple, but it's pretty sensational."

Another dress that needed to be seen in person to appreciated was Halle Berry's champagne-colored Marchesa strapless gown with a pouf of tulle around the bottom. "That dress was a movie-star dress," said Yalof Schwartz from her perch at the red carpet. "It fit her like it was melted onto her body."

More couture: Helen Mirren selected a one-of-a-kind Vivienne Westwood Couture gown in gunmetal satin with long sleeves. Marisa Tomei in a vintage, 1950s-era navy gown by Charles James from Lily et Cie paired with 1960 sapphire and diamond jewelry from Van Cleef & Arpels, and Nicole Kidman in a strapless, white Christian Dior gown with silver embroidery. If the buzz wasn't going to be about her choice to wear Dior in the aftermath of the suspension of designer John Galliano, it would have been about her 19th-century, old-mine cut diamond necklace from Fred Leighton.

Ehrlich, who partnered with Victoria's Secret, said, "There's a lot of psychology involved in making the looks look as effortlessly as they do. It's all very glamorous with a lot of different takes on it."

Helena Bonham Carter worked with costume designer Colleen Atwood for her black corset gown with cat-scratched sleeves. She told E! that she chose an outfit that would "celebrate film instead of fashion."

Rubenstein said he's just so pleased there is so much to talk about instead of a sea of safe looks. "They didn't do cookie-cutter stuff. I was delighted."

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Comedy • Rated R
Synopsis
Owen Wilson stars as a married man who is granted one week to live a bachelor's life, but runs into a moral snag when his wife heads out on her own single-life fantasy while off on vacation in this comedy from Bobby and Peter Farrelly (There's Something About Mary, Dumb and Dumber).

I Am Number Four
Friday 4:25 7:25 9:35
Saturday 1:25 4:25 7:25 9:35
Sunday 1:25 4:25 7:25
Mon thru Thurs 4:25 7:25
Alex Pettyfer, Timothy Olyphant
Science Fiction • Rated PG 13
Synopsis
A teenage fugitive with an incredible secret races to stay one step ahead of the mysterious forces seeking to track and destroy him in this sci-fi action thriller from director D.J. Caruso (Disturbia, Eagle Eye). With three dead and one on the run, the race to find the elusive Number Four begins. Outwardly normal teen John Smith (Alex Pettyfer) never gets too comfortable in the same identity, and along with his guardian, Henri (Timothy Olyphant), he is constantly moving from town to town – the perpetual new kid in a series of strangely familiar schools.

Unknown
Friday 4:30 7:30 9:55
Saturday 1:30 4:30 7:30 9:55
Sunday 1:30 4:30 7:30
Mon thru Thurs 4:30 7:30
Liam Neeson, Diane Kruger
Thriller • Rated PG 13
Synopsis
A man (Liam Neeson) wakes up from a coma while on a business trip to Europe only to find that some other man has taken his identity and stepped into his life. Diane Kruger and January Jones co-star.

Big Momma's Like Father Like Son
Friday 4:20 7:20 9:40
Saturday 1:20 4:20 7:20 9:40
Sunday 1:20 4:20 7:20
Mon thru Thurs 4:20 7:20
Martin Lawrence, Brandon T. Jackson
Comedy • Rated PG 13

Just Go With It
Friday 4:10 7:10 9:50
Saturday 1:10 4:10 7:10 9:50
Sunday 1:10 4:10 7:10
Mon thru Thurs 4:10 7:10
Jenniffer Aniston, Adam Sandler
Comedy • Rated PG 13

Gnomeo and Juliet
Friday 4:00 7:00 9:30
Saturday 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:30
Tueday 1:00 4:00 7:00
Mon thru Thurs 4:00 7:00
James McAvoy, Emily Blunt
Musical, Children's/family • Rated G

Justin Bieber: Never Say Never
Friday 4:05 7:05 9:45
Saturday 1:05 4:05 7:05 9:45
Sunday 1:05 4:05 7:05
Mon thru Thurs 4:05 7:05
Justin Bieber
Musical • Rated G

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Seeing stars, and carpet-fillers, at the Oscars

By RAQUEL MARIA DILLON
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES (AP)—It's not that big a secret that the Academy Awards producers employ seat fillers, those well-dressed folks who sit in the seats for the cameras while celebrities take a smoke break or make a dash to the bathroom.

But did you know about red-carpet walkers?

About two dozen were lined up along the Oscar red carpet before Sunday's show, waiting for their 15 or so seconds of frame, which would come whenever there was a lull in the arrival of the real stars.

With temperatures in the low 50s, however, many of the female walkers shivered in their formal evening gowns. When people weren't screaming for celebrities the sound of chattering teeth could be clearly heard.

Carpet fillers aren't allowed to wear jackets or coats, so as the day wore on and the temperature dropped they had to improvise. One gentleman handed his companion his tuxedo jacket to wear for a few minutes. Another person found a bit of fabric that had covered a scaffold.

Seat-fillers take a vow of silence and won't speak to the media. But the carpet fillers were a little more talkative.

Several confirmed that it was, indeed, really cold.

■ ■ ■ ■

LOS ANGELES (AP)—As if winning the Oscar for best live action short for his film "God of Love" wasn't cool enough, writer- director Luke Matheny got to spend the rest of the night hanging out with Hollywood's Oscar A-list.

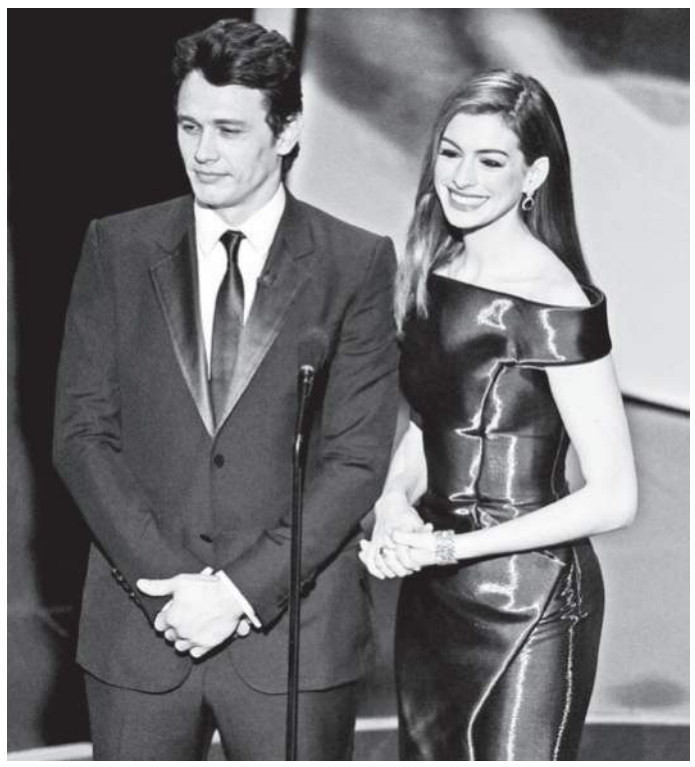
"That's so cool. You're so sweet," Amy Adams told him backstage. "It's an omen."

Jake Gyllenhaal echoed the sentiment.

"Congratulations, man," he said. "That is so awesome."

The bushy-haired Matheny, who quipped during his acceptance speech that he should have gotten a haircut, noted that "God of Love" began life as a student film.

"I was just hoping for the screenwriting prize at NYU," he said backstage.



AP

Show hosts James Franco, left, and Anne Hathaway are seen during the 83rd Academy Awards on Sunday, Feb. 27, 2011, in the Hollywood section of Los Angeles.

■ ■ ■ ■

LOS ANGELES (AP)—He's a visual effects director, after all, and his "Alice in Wonderland" won the Oscar for art direction, so it shouldn't be surprising that Robert Stromberg would want to dress up his statuette a little. But why the Mad Hatter hat?

"I thought it was a nice little punctuation," he said after collecting the award.

"All the nominees, I take my hat off to," Stromberg said backstage.

■ ■ ■ ■

LOS ANGELES (AP)—It may have been cold in the bleachers along the Oscar red carpet, but Leah Park and Natalia Barulich were feeling flushed by the site of the celebrities the 23-year-old actress-models from Los Angeles saw stroll by.

"Natalie Portman and Scarlett Johansson were amazing. But the guys all said Scarlett isn't as hot in person," said Barulich.

"Hilary Swank was beautiful in real life though, just gorgeous. And so sweet! She came up to us in the bleachers and said, 'Aren't you cold? I am.'" Park said.

■ ■ ■ ■

WEST HOLLYWOOD, California (AP)—Who needs a ticket to the Academy Awards? There was plenty of star-watching at Sunday's 19th annual Elton John Foundation Oscar viewing dinner party at the Pacific Design Center.

Among those who showed up early to put away a few cocktails were Oscar winner Jamie Foxx, director John Waters and new "American Idol" judge Steven Tyler.

Elton John and his partner, David Furnish, kept busy schmoozing.

"Our baby is at home with the nanny," Furnish said, answering inquiries about the couple's newborn son, Zachary.

The party was as dressed up as the guests, featuring floor-to-ceiling curtains, mustard-colored love seats and a wide-mirrored floor. The latter provided a navigational challenge to women wearing short skirts.

An ebullient Furnish said this has been a special time for him and John.

"We have the No. 1 movie in the country, 'Gnomio and Juliet,' and we have this Oscar party, so it's a great time," he said.

Furnish is co-producer of "Gnomio and Juliet," which topped the box office this weekend, and John is executive producer.

■ ■ ■ ■

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Forget the Governor's Ball, the fancy-schmancy parties, even the red-carpet bleachers. If you were an average joe who really wanted to see stars at Sunday's Academy Awards, the Hollywood International Youth Hostel was a prime place to be.

The hostel, where bunk beds go for $25 a night, provided stunning bird's eye views of Oscar pageantry outside the Kodak Theatre. And the place wasn't even full.

"Hugh Jackman!" a girl screamed as she pressed against a second floor window.

"Where? Where?" someone asked in Portuguese.

"I really want to see Natalie Portman. There's something about her. She really stands out, and not just because she's pregnant," said Lee Bentum, 23, of Ontario, Canada.

Cedric Maruani, a 27-year-old actor from Marseilles, France, stood on a table holding a plastic Oscar statuette like the ones they sell at the souvenir shops downstairs.

"Thank you, thank you everyone! Merci beaucoup," said Maruani. "One day I'll be on the red carpet too."

Taylor celebrates 79th birthday in US hospital

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A spokeswoman for Elizabeth Taylor says the two-time Oscar winner will spend her birthday watching the Academy Awards in a Los Angeles hospital room, where she's recovering from treatment for congestive heart failure.

Sally Morrison says Taylor will be rooting for "The King's Speech" to win Hollywood's highest honor. Taylor turns 79 Sunday. Morrison says a proper birthday celebration is planned for when the screen legend returns home.

Taylor has been hospitalized at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center since early this month. She disclosed her heart condition in November 2004. Taylor won Oscars for "Butterfield 8" in 1960 and "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf" in 1966.

'Gnomeo & Juliet' wins box office on Oscar weekend

NEW YORK (AP)—Wherefore art thou, Gnomeo? Atop the box office, that's where.

Walt Disney's "Gnomeo & Juliet," an animated 3-D twist on "Romeo and Juliet," took in $14.2 million in its third week of release, leading the box office on Oscar weekend, according to studio estimates Sunday. In a lighthearted, G-rated version of the Shakespeare drama, the film uses garden gnomes in roles usually reserved for heavyweights of the stage.

It was a surprising upset win for "Gnomeo," which bested underperforming debuts from Owen Wilson and Nicolas Cage.

The Farrelly brothers' R-rated comedy "Hall Pass" earned $13.4 million for Warner Bros. Cage's 3-D action film "Drive Angry" took in just $5.1 million for Summit Entertainment.

The Liam Neeson thriller "Unknown" earned $12.4 million in its second weekend of release, bringing its cumulative total to a solid $42.8 million for Warner Bros.

1. **"Gnomeo & Juliet,"** $14.2 million.
2. **"Hall Pass,"** $13.4 million.
3. **"Unknown,"** $12.4 million.
4. **"Just Go With It,"** $11.1 million.
5. **"I Am Number Four,"** $11 million.
6. **"Justin Bieber: Never Say Never,"** $9.2 million.
7. **"The King's Speech,"** $7.6 million.
8. **"Big Mommas: Like Father, Like Son,"** $7.6 million.
9. **"Drive Angry,"** $5.1 million.
10. **"True Grit,"** $1.9 million.

In its third week of release, Paramount's 3-D Justin Bieber concert documentary, "Justin Bieber: Never Say Never," took in $9.2 million. To boost repeat business from die-hard Bieber fans, the film was re-edited by director Jon Chu in a "fan cut," made using suggestions from the teen pop star's rabid following.

Though the unexpected success of "Gnomeo" is good for the moviegoing business, it was still a down weekend for Hollywood, with the total box-office less than the corresponding weekend last year. That has been a common theme in 2011. Grosses are down 21 percent from last year.

"As the industry celebrates its best of last year, we're definitely still in this box-office malaise," said Dergarabedian.

Readers rise up to support subject of cosmetic makeover

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: This is in response to your Jan. 7 column about "Frannie," whose personal grooming issues may have cost her a promotion at work. The friend who wrote you might suggest that she is making an appointment for both of them at a day spa where trained cosmetologists could "pluck, primp and pretty" them both up with a new look. That way, someone else could actually tell Frannie what to do to improve her appearance, and the friend can feel she has been tactful while still making a difference. It may cost a few dollars, but it could be an effective solution.

ROWENA IN KANSAS

DEAR ROWENA: "Frannie's Friend" described her as wearing no makeup, sporting a huge unibrow and wearing sandals that expose her hairy feet. I also advised the services of a cosmetologist. However, readers—some of them males—vigorously disagree with us. Read on:

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I'm a male who is put off by women who place too much emphasis on makeup and their "look." I appreciate women who are real and have enough self-confidence not to get bent out of shape over clothes, hairstyles or, of all things, bushy eyebrows.

I would have suggested that Frannie find a job where she's appreciated for her skills, since it's obvious to me her current employer places the emphasis on superficiality. I work in aerospace, where we value (and need) smart women who can make things happen. We love women with strength and character, and tend to be suspicious of someone trying to pull off the "Barbie Doll" image.

MIKE IN EVERETT, WASH.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Heaven forbid that women present themselves to the world as they are, rather than hidden behind blushes and eye shadows! Why are we taught to be ashamed of our own faces? As for the overly hairy eyebrows, why should it matter?

The writer mentioned that her friend is in shape and dresses well, so it isn't as if she strolls into the office looking unkempt. The real issue here is that Frannie's co-workers judge her on something that has absolutely nothing to do with her work.

I applaud Frannie for being confident enough about who she is not to modify herself to meet other people's shallow standards. Our society has become a vapid, aesthetically demanding place that values appearance over merit.

CAITLIN IN LOS ANGELES

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: When a woman has excessive facial hair and hair on the toes and feet, it can be a symptom of an endocrine disorder, particularly polycystic ovary disease. Frannie should visit her OB/GYN to make sure she doesn't have an underlying medical problem.

PESHTIGO, WIS., READER

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Frannie does not owe "prettiness" to anyone but herself. If someone is offended by her unibrow or hairy toes, that's his/her problem, not Frannie's. Unless Frannie is truly clueless or actually desires hair removal, I don't think her friend should mention grooming to her.

Frannie should be encouraged to find a man who likes her for exactly who she is, and not just if she conforms to society's often ridiculous standards of beauty. Your response that Frannie "needs" to hear exactly why her appearance fails to attract men perpetuates the shallow belief that women must change themselves in order to be seen as attractive.

CLAIRE IN MILWAUKEE

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I would not say one word about the appearance of any person in the workplace. I have worked with women who were drop-dead gorgeous and those who could use a major makeover. Their appearance is none of my business. It's not relevant in the workplace today—except, maybe, in cocktail bars and strip joints.

JIM IN GALVESTON

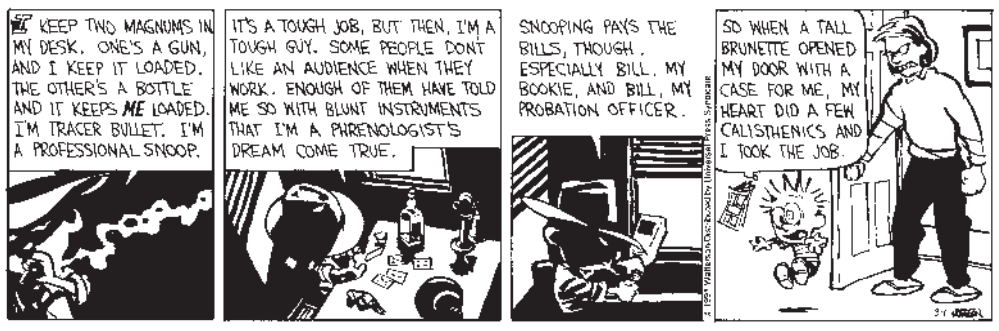
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." To order, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

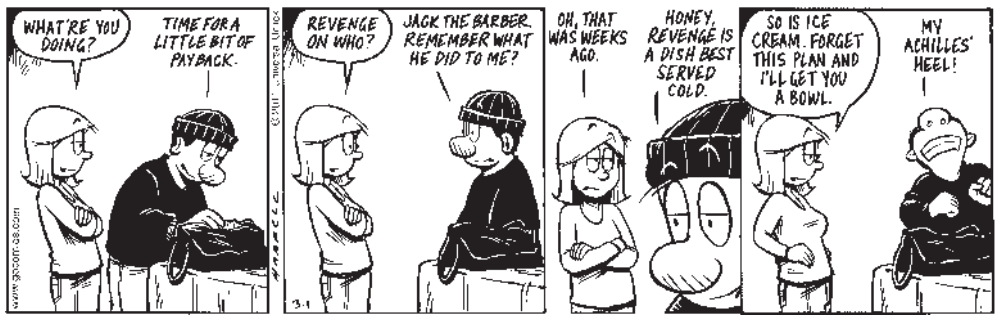

I KEEP TWO MAGNUMS IN MY DESK. ONE'S A GUN, AND I KEEP IT LOADED. THE OTHER'S A BOTTLE AND IT KEEPS ME LOADED. I'M TRACER BULLET. I'M A PROFESSIONAL SNOOP.
IT'S A TOUGH JOB, BUT THEN, I'M A TOUGH GUY. SOME PEOPLE DON'T LIKE AN AUDIENCE WHEN THEY WORK. ENOUGH OF THEM HAVE TOLD ME SO WITH BLUNT INSTRUMENTS THAT I'M A PHRENOLOGIST'S DREAM COME TRUE.
SNOOPING PAYS THE BILLS, THOUGH. ESPECIALLY BILL, MY BOOKIE, AND BILL, MY PROBATION OFFICER.
SO WHEN A TALL BRUNETTE OPENED MY DOOR WITH A CASE FOR ME, MY HEART DID A FEW CALISTHENICS AND I TOOK THE JOB.
© Tom Watterson/Dist. By Universal Press Syndicate

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

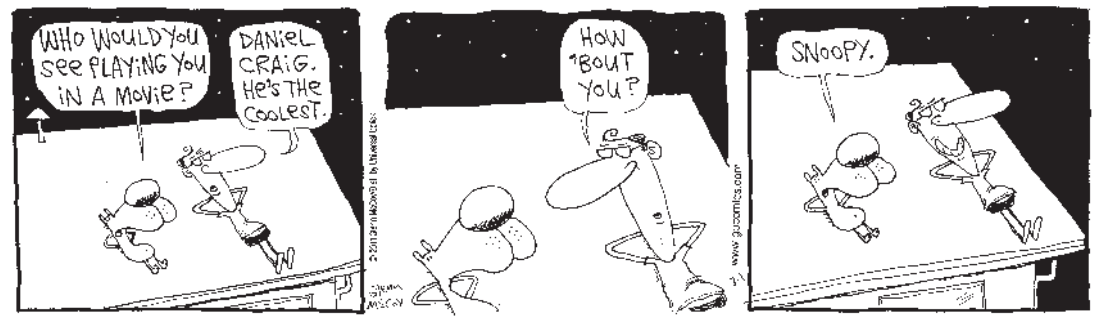
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


WHAT'RE YOU DOING?
TIME FOR A LITTLE BIT OF PAYBACK.
REVENGE ON WHO?
JACK THE BARBER. REMEMBER WHAT HE DID TO ME?
OH, THAT WAS WEEKS AGO.
HONEY, REVENGE IS A DISH BEST SERVED COLD.
SO IS ICE CREAM. FORGET THIS PLAN AND I'LL GET YOU A BOWL.
MY ACHILLES' HEEL!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

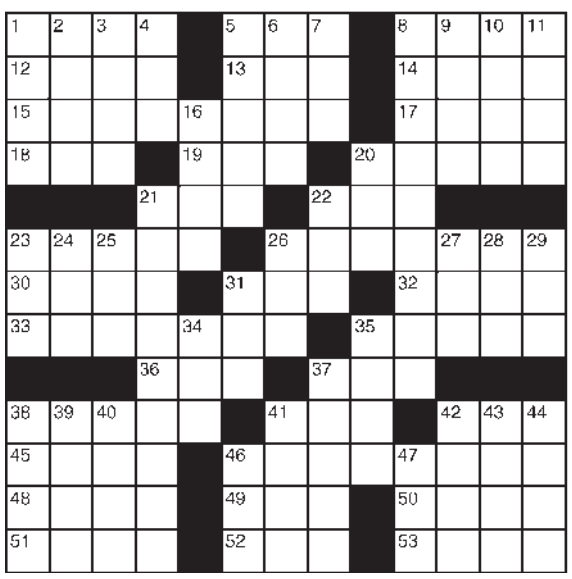
ACROSS
1 Urban pollutant
5 Crafty
8 Mary's follower
12 Greek vowel
13 Spy org.
14 Hodge-podge
15 Traffic congestion
17 R.I. neighbor
18 "For — a jolly ..."
19 Consumed
20 Bundle of yarn
21 Banned insecticide
22 Greyhound carrier
23 Each and —
26 Sleepwear, slangily
30 Having Y chromosomes
31 Nourished
32 Not active
33 Not upset (by)
35 Add fuel to the fire
36 12 (Abbr.)
37 Cheerful sound?
38 Layered rock
41 Chick
42 "See ya"
45 Novice
46 Big name in aircraft production
48 Great story
49 8-Across' mom
50 Peruse
51 Frail
52 Neither Rep. nor Dem.
53 Agile

DOWN
1 Unuttered "Alas"
2 Additional
3 Elevator name
4 Wander (about)
5 Composer Joplin
6 Grown-up nits
7 Tibetan beast
8 One with a key job?
9 Lotion additive
10 Revealing skirt
11 German city
16 "— Sings the Blues"
20 Total
21 Rasta's braid
22 Evil
23 Ostrich's cousin
24 Moving truck
25 Sprite
26 Clampett patriarch
27 Altar affirmative
28 Wapiti
29 Witness
31 Shriner's hat
34 Bright-orange "Sesame Street" Muppet
35 Polio vaccine discoverer
37 Battled for time
38 Crockpot creation
39 Advertise in a big way
40 Operatic solo
41 Formal dress
42 Road Runner's noise
43 Once around the sun
44 Vortex
46 Floral neckwear
47 120 min. = 2 —

Solution time: 21 mins.

B	L	T			A	L	P		A	L	S	O
A	U	R	A		H	E	R		P	E	O	N
G	L	A	P		A	G	O		P	O	L	E
H	U	M	P	S		S	O	A	R			
			L	A	G		F	L	O	R	E	T
J	A	N	I	T	O	R		A	B	O	V	E
O	P	E	C		B	A	Z		A	V	E	R
E	S	S	A	Y		W	E	S	T	E	R	N
I	E	T	T	F	R		D	O	I			
			I	S	I	S		Y	O	D	E	L
M	E	M	O		G	E	L		N	O	L	O
I	R	A	N		O	W	F		S	O	S	A
A	R	T	S		R	N	A			M	E	N

Yesterday's answer 3-1



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18– only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Justin Bieber, 17; Javier Bardem, 42; Ron Howard, 57; Alan Thicke, 64

Happy Birthday: You'll have a lot to contend with as life around you changes. Nothing will hold you back more than a lack of confidence. Make a decision and follow through. You will gain respect and support from people in a position to help you turn your ideas and goals into something doable, personally and professionally. Your numbers are 7, 10, 18, 25, 27, 33, 41

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Use your knowledge and skills to help others and you will secure a position that will reward you handsomely. It's how you go about doing things that will make a difference to your future. Love and romance are in the stars. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Don't get caught up in someone else's melodrama or you will miss out on a life-changing opportunity. Give someone a gentle nudge if it will make a difference to a cause or group you believe in. A debate will favor you in the end, so speak up. ✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Look, listen and learn. Back away from anyone putting demands on you and embrace those eager to see what you'll do next. There will be a fine line between someone who is your enemy and someone who is jealous of you. ✪✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Put your best foot forward. Your memory, coupled with your imagination, will help you come up with excellent ideas that will please whoever you are doing business with or trying to impress. A move will help cut costs. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): A chance to expand your interests, skills or your friendships is apparent if you get involved in a group endeavor or an educational pursuit. Your willingness to share will help you gain momentum while learning and applying the information you've picked up. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Take care of money matters or debts owed. Change is required in order to follow your dreams and find the happiness you've been longing for. You can enhance your love life by the choices you make now. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): New beginnings are within reach. Stop worrying about what isn't working and focus more on what you want to see happen. It's up to you to motivate people who can help you out to participate in your plans. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): You can make a difference in someone's life if you inspire, educate and facilitate him or her to join your quest. A change at home will enable you to expand an idea or plan you've wanted to develop for some time. Communication and action will bring results. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Your past can get you into trouble if you aren't respectful of your current obligations. A problem with a friend, relative or neighbor will lead to a dispute. Changes to the way you live will help you get back on track. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Being able to adapt to whatever situation you face will enhance your reputation. You will have the opportunity to take on added responsibility or a leadership position. A change in your personal life will bring you greater happiness. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Taking on too much or trying to be too many things for too many people will lead to exhaustion. Don't make promises or sign up for anything that isn't going to bring you something in return. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Before you tell everyone your plans, research the possibilities as well as your options. A personal change will alter the way you feel about someone. Don't make an impulsive move. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive, caring and open-minded. You help the underdog and are strong-willed and determined to finish what you start.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	3			5	7			4
2							7	
			4		8			
		8	9			6		2
9								3
5		4			1	9		
			3		4			
	1							6
4			7	2			3	

Difficulty Level ★★ 3/01

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	3	1	2	9	7	5	6	4
9	2	7	6	4	5	3	1	8
4	5	6	1	8	3	2	7	9
2	6	8	9	3	1	4	5	7
3	4	9	7	5	6	8	2	1
1	7	5	4	2	8	9	3	6
7	8	2	3	1	9	6	4	5
5	1	4	8	6	2	7	9	3
6	9	3	5	7	4	1	8	2

Difficulty Level ★ 2/28

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

'BURLESQUE' **Solution: 9 letters**

I	N	T	E	S	S	T	A	N	L	E	Y	P	N
K	O	A	I	S	S	M	E	S	R	A	E	H	E	R
K	V	W	L	T	S	A	P	E	T	E	R	O	R	O
I	E	L	A	A	L	E	X	I	S	T	B	M	F	M
N	N	R	T	G	A	R	E	L	I	U	G	A	O	A
R	U	I	A	E	N	D	O	G	R	C	K	R	R	N
E	E	G	N	A	W	M	W	L	N	C	R	C	M	C
N	N	C	W	B	O	U	E	O	E	I	A	U	E	E
W	O	A	N	I	T	S	I	R	H	C	M	S	R	V
O	R	E	E	A	Q	I	D	A	C	S	L	M	S	O
D	G	V	S	U	D	C	A	C	K	O	V	U	U	I
A	A	S	E	S	(R)	A	N	E	R	I	C	T	B	C
D	N	A	E	S	(E)	L	E	G	N	A	S	O	L	E
S	I	N	G	A	(H)	J	A	C	K	E	C	I	L	A
E	E	N	A	T	(C)	N	E	T	S	I	R	K	G	E

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Agron, Aguilera, Alan, Alexis, Alice, Anna, Award, Cher, Christina, Club, Coco, Cumming, Dancer, Dane, Dave, Dreams, Eric, Girl, Iowa, Jack, Jesse, Kristen, Los Angeles, Marcus, Mark, Musical, Natalie, Neo Burlesque, Nikki, Owner, Past, Performers, Peter, Rehearse, Role, Romance, Sean, Show, Sing, Stage, Stanley, Star, Tanee, Tess, Town, Tucci, Venue, Vince, Voice

Yesterday's Answer: Chameleon

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ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of the Estate of ESTEBAN RASIANG NOGIS, Deceased.	]]]]]	**CIVIL ACTION NO: 05-0113 D**

FIFTH AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on April 16, 2008, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property: Tract No. 22703-3, containing an area of 1,484 square meters, more or less.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on **Friday, March 4, 2011**, at the hour of **1:30 pm at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC**, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 2nd day of February, 2011:

/s/MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

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Gasol, Lakers edge Thunder, 90-87

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—Pau Gasol had 18 points and 11 rebounds, Kobe Bryant scored 17 points and the Los Angeles Lakers extended their cushion over Oklahoma City in the Western Conference standings by beating the Thunder 90-87 on Sunday.

Andrew Bynum added 16 points and 10 rebounds, but the Lakers weren't able to simply overpower a Thunder team that added Kendrick Perkins for interior toughness but won't get him in the lineup for a couple weeks.

Lamar Odom missed a pair of free throws with 10.9 seconds left to leave the door open for Oklahoma City, but Kevin Durant and James Harden each missed 3-pointers from the top of the key in the closing moments.

Russell Westbrook led Oklahoma City with 22 points and Durant scored 21. The Thunder were held to a season-low 31 second-half points in suffering their first three-game losing streak of the season.

The Lakers have gained three games on the fourth-place Thunder in the standings in the past five days and are now 4 1/2 games ahead.

The Lakers used a similar formula for their win against Oklahoma City earlier this season in Los Angeles, when they held the Thunder to just 39 points in the second half.

After shooting 61 percent in the first half, the Thunder managed just half that percentage in the second half and lost after Durant and Westbrook each had turnovers in the final minute.

Ron Artest stripped Durant of the ball after Bryant's jumper made it 90-87 with 56.4 seconds left, and Westbrook charged into Gasol for an offensive foul with 17.3 seconds remaining.

The Thunder still got one last chance but couldn't convert.

None of Oklahoma City's three trade deadline acquisitions—Perkins, Nazr Mohammed and Nate Robinson—played although Perkins was the only one unavailable. The Thunder still held their own in the paint after getting outscored there 54-26 in a blowout loss at Orlando on Friday night.

Oklahoma City actually outscored the Lakers 40-34 inside and held a 39-36 rebounding advantage behind Serge Ibaka's 13 boards.

Harden added 14 points off the bench for the Thunder.

Oklahoma City shot 61 percent and led 56-51 after a first half featuring wild back-and-forth swings. The Thunder ran out to a quick 12-2 lead after back-to-back 3-pointers by Thabo Sefolosha, then let that lead get whittled down to one before ripping off a 17-4 surge that made it 38-24 following Daequan Cook's consecutive 3s early in the second quarter.

Odom answered at the other end with a shot-clock beating 3-pointer and the Lakers came back to tie it at 42 with an 18-4 response that featured Shannon Brown's strangely banked-in 3-pointer from the right corner.

L.A. then clamped down on defense, limiting the Thunder to a season-low 13 points on 23 percent shooting in the third quarter and pulling ahead 72-69 on Steve Blake's 3-pointer at the end of the period.

The Lakers took the lead for good on Brown's two free throws that made it 78-76 with 8:10 to play. Bryant's 3-pointer from the right wing made it 87-80 with 4:38 remaining and L.A. hung on from there.

Knicks 91, Heat 86

At Miami, Carmelo Anthony scored 29 points, and Amare Stoudemire added 16 and a huge blocked shot against LeBron James with 7 seconds left as New York stunned Miami.

Chauncey Billups had 16 points, including the go-ahead 3-pointer with 1:01 left for New York, which rallied from a 15-point, first-half deficit. Stoudemire finished with 10 rebounds for the Knicks.

James scored 27 for Miami, which had won seven straight at home. Chris Bosh added 20 points and 12 rebounds, and Dwyane Wade finished with only 12 points for the Heat.

Suns 110, Pacers 108, OT

At Indianapolis, Channing Frye hit a long jump shot as the overtime buzzer sounded to lift Phoenix past Indiana.

Grant Hill had 34 points for the Suns, who scored the first seven points of overtime before the Pacers rallied.

Josh McRoberts tied the game at 108-108 on a three-point play with 23.9 seconds remaining. But the Suns worked the clock to 3.5 seconds, and after a timeout, Frye converted from 23 feet for the victory.

A.J. Price had 11 of his 16 points during the Pacers' fourth-quarter rally.

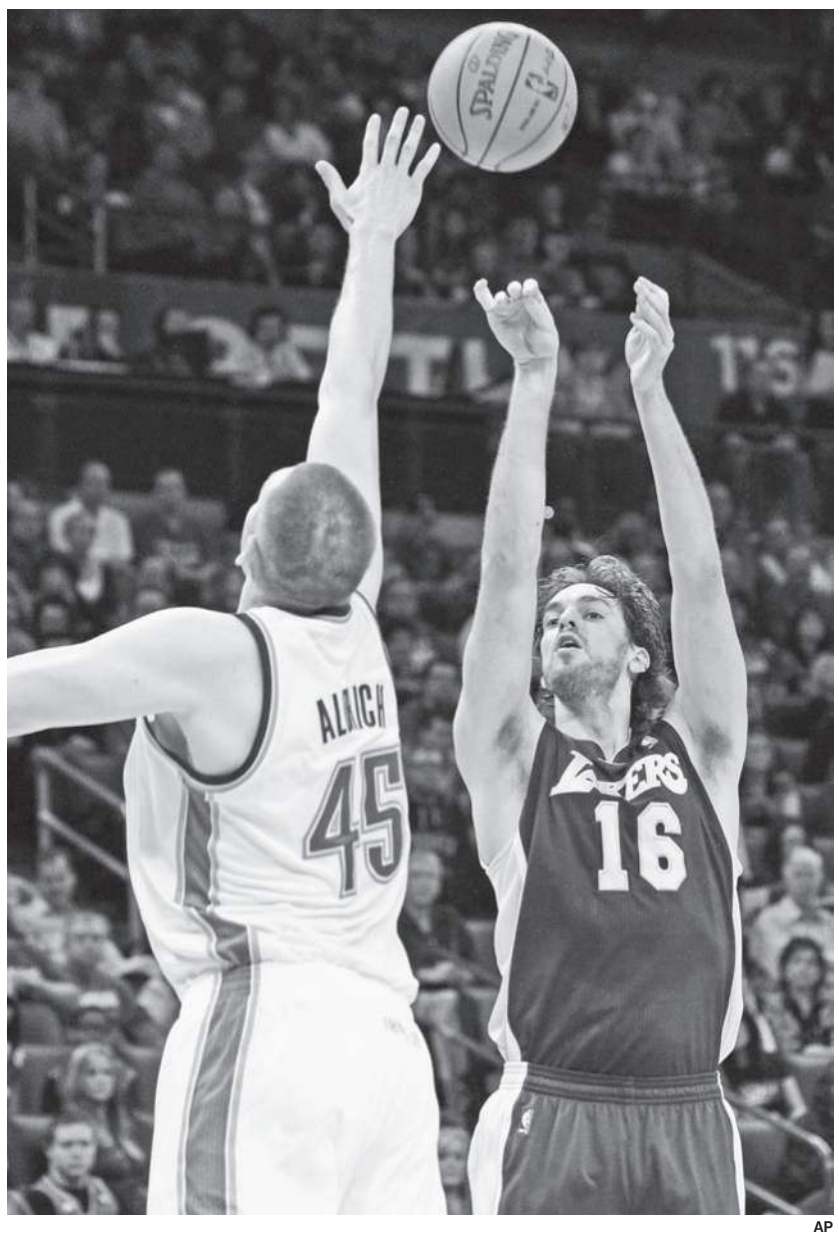
Steve Nash had 10 points and 12 assists for the Suns.

Timberwolves 126, Warriors 123

At Minneapolis, Kevin Love had 37 points and 23 rebounds to extend his NBA-leading double-double streak to 46 games, as Minnesota snapped a seven-game skid.

Love had his fourth 30-point, 20-rebound game of the season as the Timberwolves overcame a 14-point deficit and avoided extending their longest losing streak of a frustrating season. The All-Star forward also went 18 for 23 from the free throw line to tie Minnesota's franchise records for attempts and makes.

Stephen Curry led Golden State with 33 points while Dorell Wright added 26.



AP

Los Angeles Lakers center Pau Gasol, right, of Spain, shoots over Oklahoma City Thunder center Cole Aldrich during the first half of an NBA basketball game Sunday, Feb. 27, 2011, in Oklahoma City.

Rockets 91, Hornets 89

At New Orleans, Kevin Martin scored 33 points as Houston beat New Orleans for its fourth straight win.

Kyle Lowry added 18 points for the Rockets, who overcame a 16-point, second-half deficit and made 11 3-pointers in the game, four each by Martin and Lowry. Martin was 13 of 13 on free throws, hitting two key foul shots with 18.4 seconds left to give Houston a 90-87 lead.

David West had 20 points and Chris Paul had 12 assists for New Orleans, which lost for the first time in three games since the All-Star break.

76ers 95, Cavaliers 91

At Cleveland, Elton Brand and Lou Williams scored 16 points each as Philadelphia moved above .500 for the first time this season.

The 76ers, who have won a season-high four straight games, placed six players in double figures.

Cleveland forward Antawn Jamison left the game in the third quarter with a broken little finger on his left hand. He scored 16 points in 30 minutes. J.J. Hickson had 22 points and 16 rebounds for Cleveland.

Hawks 90, Trail Blazers 83

At Portland, Oregon, Jamal Crawford had 23 points, including a key 3-pointer with 1:36 left, as Atlanta held off a late rally by Portland.

Joe Johnson added 22 points and Atlanta led by as many as 23 in the sixth of a seven-game road trip. The Hawks are 3-3 on the trip, which wraps up Monday night in Denver.

Andre Miller led the Blazers with 20 points, while LaMarcus Aldridge had 19.

Josh Smith added 14 points and 11 rebounds for the Hawks.

Mavericks 114, Raptors 96.

At Toronto, Dirk Nowitzki had 31 points and 13 rebounds, and Shawn Marion scored 20 points as Dallas won its sixth straight game.

Jason Terry scored 19 points for the Mavericks, who have won 16 of 17, including nine of 10 on the road. Dallas came in having lost two straight against the Raptors, but won for the 12th in 15 meetings.

Ian Mahinmi scored 13 points, and Jose Barea had 12 points and nine assists for Dallas.

Amir Johnson scored 21 points and DeMar DeRozan had 19 for Toronto, which has lost seven of 10 and 20 of 23.

Magic 100, Bobcats 86

At Orlando, Florida, Dwight Howard had 20 points and 10 rebounds to lead Orlando past Charlotte.

Brandon Bass added 17 points and Gilbert Arenas chipped in 16, making four 3-pointers to break out of a recent shooting slump.

Stephen Jackson led Charlotte with 35 points, followed by D.J. Augustin and Boris Diaw with 11 apiece.

Spurs 95, Grizzlies 88

At San Antonio, Manu Ginobili scored 18 of his season-high 35 points in the fourth quarter to rally San Antonio past Memphis.

Parker left with a left calf injury after he collided with Grizzlies guard Mike Conley with 2:45 remaining in the second quarter. Parker didn't return in the second half.

Zach Randolph led the Grizzlies with 24 points and Conley scored nine of his 19 in the fourth.

Marlins' Stanton strains quadriceps

JUPITER, Fla. (AP)—Mike Stanton showed off his home-run trot in the first inning, then limped from the field in the second.

The young slugger strained his right quadriceps running out a grounder Sunday in the Florida Marlins' exhibition opener, a 9-8 loss to the Miami Hurricanes.

The Marlins declined to predict how long Stanton will be sidelined, saying it'll depend on how his thigh feels in the next couple of days.

"We'll see how it is Monday," he said. "Better now than April 1. It's never a good thing, but I would rather it be now and have some time to heal."

Stanton hit the first pitch he saw for a two-run homer, showing the sort of power that won him raves as a rookie last year and a spot batting cleanup in this year's lineup.

"It would have been nice if he could have hung in there a little longer," baseball operations president Larry Beinfest said. "Hopefully we have time on our side and he'll be OK."

The Marlins subsequently blew a 7-1 lead. Five relievers—none likely to make the team—combined to give up 11 walks.

For Florida, the biggest loss was Stanton. He said his thigh tightened about halfway to first base after he hit a high-hopper to the pitcher. He limped across the base and crumpled to his knees

"The whole dugout went quiet," manager Edwin Rodriguez said. "It's amazing, a kid 21 years old, the impact he has on the team."

Stanton eventually rose to limp off the field, then rode a cart from the dugout to the clubhouse to ice the injury. Two hours later he emerged from the training room, spotted a food buffet and grabbed a plate, his appetite still healthy.

But he said the discomfort in his thigh was "pretty high."

"It's frozen right now, so it's going to be a little more," Stanton said.

Last year the big right fielder hit 22 home runs with 59 RBIs in 100 games, and a buzz began to build regarding his tape-measure blows. The latest came in batting practice Friday, when he homered over the roof of the building beyond center field at Roger Dean Stadium.

Marlins offseason acquisition Javier Vazquez started and retired all six batters he faced, striking out three. He needed only 21 pitches and was so efficient that to complete his day's work he threw another 15 pitches in the bullpen.

Prospect Matt Dominguez, trying to win a starting job at third base, went 1 for 3 and was thrown out trying to stretch a single into a double.

Newcomer Omar Infante had an RBI single. Chris Coghlan, playing his first game since tearing the meniscus in his left knee last July, had no chances in his new spot in center field but singled in two at-bats

"We played a very good game until the fifth inning," Rodriguez said. "But you can't defend all those walks."

Rony Rodriguez doubled in the go-ahead run for the Hurricanes in the eighth inning. Michael Broad hit a grand slam to cut the Marlins' lead to one in the sixth.

"That was pretty fun—a grand slam versus them," Broad said. "Playing them, you've got to forget they're major-leaguers and take it as a regular game. If you go out there thinking, `I'm facing a professional,' you're never going to win the battle."

Donald wins first World Golf Championship

MARANA, Ariz. (AP)—Luke Donald spoiled Martin Kaymer's rise to No. 1 in the world by winning the Match Play Championship on Sunday with a performance so dominant he never played the 18th hole all week.

Not even the snow and sleet could stop Donald.

On a bizarre final day in the high desert, which began with snow covering the fairways, Donald pulled ahead for good with a birdie on the par-5 11th and a par on the next hole, eventually closing out Kaymer on No. 16 for a 3-and-2 victory.

The consolation prize for Kaymer is going to No. 1 in the career, which he assured by reaching the championship match.

Donald was in more dire need of this trophy, however.

It was his first win in America in five years, and it was only his second win worldwide since he captured the 2006 Honda Classic. The 33-year-old Englishman had done just about everything right except win.

He took care of that in a week like no other in the 13-year history of the Accenture Match Play Championship. Donald played only 89 holes in six matches and never trailed in any of them. In fact, he led after 81 of those holes.

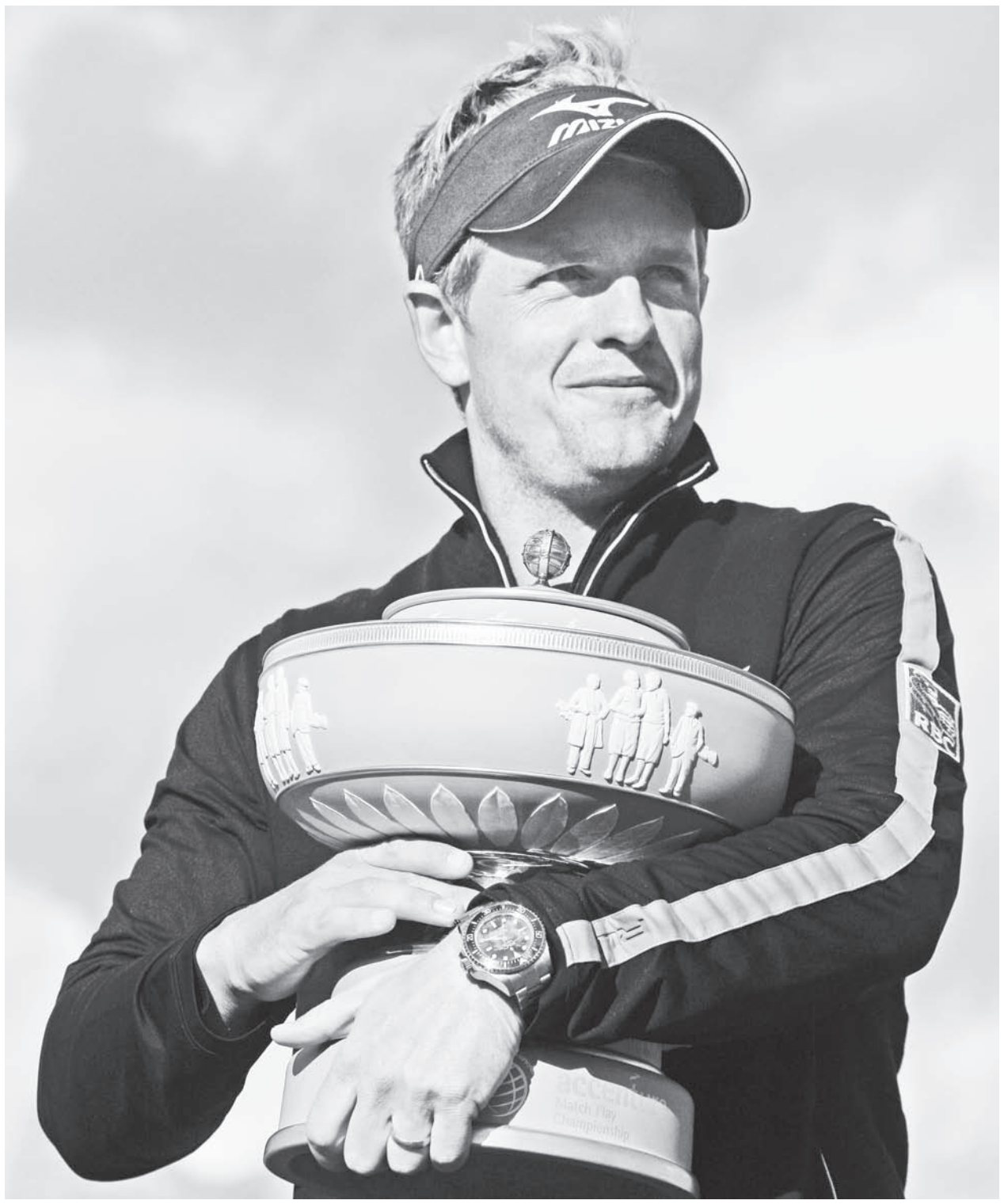
"It feels amazing," Donald said. "I had a bit of a monkey on my back. I hadn't won in the U.S. in five years."

Donald won his first World Golf Championship, and became the second player from England to capture the Match Play Championship. He goes to a career-best No. 3 in the world to continue a European resurgence in the ranking.

The next world ranking will be Kaymer, Lee Westwood, Donald and Graeme McDowell. It's the first time since March 15, 1992, that the top four spots have been occupied by Europeans.

Matt Kuchar defeated Bubba Watson in the consolation match and will go to No. 10 in the world.

This Match Play Championship will stand out for reasons beyond golf.



AP

Luke Donald of England poses with the Walter Hagen trophy after defeating Martin Kaymer of Germany 3 and 2 in the finals of the Match Play Championship golf tournament Sunday, Feb. 27, 2011, in Marana, Ariz.

A late winter storm dusted Dove Mountain with nearly an inch of snow, and the fairways were blankets of white in the morning. Donald looked out his hotel room and suggested on Twitter that a snowball fight determine who had honors on the first tee.

The snow had melted when they teed off, although dark clouds on the horizon loomed. Sleet began falling when the championship match reached the third green, and play was stopped when sleet covered the fourth fairway.

"Do we have to keep playing?" Kaymer asked chief referee Mark Russell.

Kaymer, who purchased a snood to wear around his neck, pulled it up over his mouth and looked like a real Western gunslinger (except for the pattern of flies on fish hooks). Donald took out his blue-and-white umbrella and crouched beneath it.

After about 10 minutes, when the fairways turned from white back to green, play resumed.

Donald seized on the moment. Already 1 up from his 18-foot birdie on the par-5 second, he watched Kaymer hit a fade over the bunker to about 7 feet, then answered with a shot into 2 feet for a conceded birdie. Kaymer missed, and Donald was 2 up.

On the next hole, Kaymer pulled his drive into the desert and fell another hole down.

Donald three-putted for bogey from below the ridge to lose his first hole, and Kaymer squared the match at the turn with a birdie on the eighth and a bogey on No. 9, where Donald hit his approach into a desert bush and had to return to his original spot in the fairway.

The turning point might have been No. 10.

Kaymer had all the momentum and blistered a tee shot down the middle, while Donald went from a scrubby lie in the desert to a waste area short of the green. Donald, however, blasted out to 3 feet for a conceded par.

He took the lead on the 11th by making an 8-foot birdie putt as Kaymer missed his birdie from just inside 6 feet, and Donald regained all the moment on the next hole when Kaymer came up short into the sand and took bogey.

Donald went 3 up on the 15th when Kaymer missed a birdie putt from inside 4 feet, and the "Germanator" conceded the match on the 16th when he failed to hole a 30-foot birdie putt.

It was the first time the championship match was decided over 18 holes instead of 36.

Lockout could leave NFL rookies with big challenge

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Florida defensive back Ahmad Black would prefer to focus on football.

Instead, he's getting a crash course in labor negotiations, lockout rules, even the possible implementation of a rookie wage scale.

These new obstacles are threatening to make the transition from college football to the NFL more complicated than usual, even if the players don't want to admit it.

"Hey, it's better than doing it for free," Black said Sunday at the NFL's annual scouting combine. "I'm going to get a little bit of something (in a contract)."

Black, like most of the 329 draft prospects in Indianapolis this weekend, is trying to stay away from the discussion that has overshadowed one of the league's biggest and busiest offseason events.

Normally, the discussion in Indy centers on 40-yard dash times and bench press repetitions.

This year, the showcase has expanded to multiple venues. There's been a steady stream of meetings in hotel hallways, at the convention center, even at the Colts' complex. Everyone from owners to coaches to agents have been briefed about negotiations that could avert the looming lockout, which could begin Friday.

And the potential draft picks find themselves caught in the middle.

If the expected lockout begins, teams will be prohibited from communicating with veterans or negotiating player contracts. Free agency will be put on hold and teams cannot cut players from their current rosters.

Rookies, however, will still have their regularly scheduled pro days, still be able to interview with team officials and still get picked in April's draft.

That's when the landscape changes for the rookies.

They will not be able to negotiate deals until a new CBA is in place, and, perhaps more importantly, will not be allowed to get playbooks, go through the usual minicamps or the team's offseason workouts.

Some analysts suggest it's enough to make this a lost draft class. NFL officials disagree.

"It's difficult being a rookie as it is," Kansas City Chiefs general manager Scott Pioli said. "I think it's really up to the individual. They're all at different points, but they're going to have to develop. If it's going to be an issue, though, it's going to be an issue for everybody."

That's not necessarily what the players want to hear.

"I don't think it would set us back," Miami cornerback DeMarcus Van Dyke said. "It would make us hungrier when we get into camp. It will probably cut down all the long contracts and just get guys right into camp."

But it could affect how much of an impact the rookies make next season.

Without a playbook and minicamps, the learning curve likely will get steeper. And history has shown how tough it can be.

Rob Morris, the Colts' first-round pick in 2000, often said his rookie holdout stunted his development. Former Ohio State running back Maurice Clarett didn't even make the Denver roster after missing two college seasons, and former Southern California receiver Mike Williams, another former first-round pick, had only 44 catches in his first three NFL seasons after sitting out the 2004 season.

The players in Indy want to avoid those mistakes.

"It's always a setback because you want to be able to learn as much as you can and get that jump on everybody," UCLA safety Rahim Moore said. "I hope there's a minicamp so I can get the playbook and learn as fast as I can. If you try to rely on a training camp, it can be a bad thing."

There's even a possibility that the league's first work stoppage since 1987 could lead to condensed training camps, the cancellation of games or, as unlikely as it seems, the loss of an entire season.

"At the end of the day, those guys are going to have to come up with an agreement because you can't cancel the game of football forever," said LSU's Patrick Peterson, currently projected as the draft's top-rated cornerback.

The other big issue will be contracts.

If the owners get the rookie wage scale they want, the days of record-breaking rookie contracts will be history. Last year's top overall pick, Sam Bradford, signed a six-year deal worth $78 million with $50 million guaranteed.

Team officials are hoping a wage scale will lead to fewer holdouts. But there are no guarantees.

And if there is a lockout, these players could lose a lot more than just cash. They could lose that precious time to learn the systems and become effective players.

"I don't know too much about all that. I just go by what I'm told," Black said. "It could be a setback. I'm still going about my business as usual."

Balite Boys, Chagi Fan, Nasty Girls atop their divisions

By WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

A Division's Balite Boys of D'Pirates Bar & Grill, C-Chichirika Division's Chagi Fan of Buddies' Bar & Grill, and Women's League's Nasty Girls of Bar Gaia are the current leaders of the Saipan Electronic Dart Association.

Despite its recent upset loss, Balite Boys holds a 23-11 win-loss record and is clinging to the top spot just ahead of its rival Locals Too (22-12) of Buddies and Oleai Beach Bar & Grill's Celebrity (21-13). D'Pirates' Mixed-Blood Shooters (11-6) each had byes.

Chagi Fan edged out D'Pirates' Team Sang (23-7) with a record of 24-6, while Sang's sister team Lucky Shot (18-12) is in third place.

Nasty Girls has an 18-12 card and hold a slim lead over Buddies' Sistah! (16-14) with a makeup match on the books between Yakau (11-4) of Jonny's Bar & Grill and D'Pirates' Aschooschoo (10-5).

A DIVISION

Cool Its 9, Primos 8

At Charlie's, visiting Cool Its of Buddies won a pair of cricket matches, a game of 501, a sniper contest, a wild cricket game, three 301 matches, and took the final team 1001 game for the team victory. Cool Its' Mario Abo won five out of six matches.

Locals Too 10, Balite Boys 7

At Buddies, home team Locals Too won a pair of cricket matches, three sniper contests, swept both wild cricket games, and clinched the team victory in the second game of 301. The team went on to add a 301 game and the final team 1001 match to its total.

Celebrity 14, Proofers 3

At Oleai, home team Celebrity won three cricket matches, swept both 501 games and all four sniper matches for the team victory, and then padded its numbers with a wild cricket game and all four 301 matches.

Naked Fish Boyz 9, Kanto Boyz 8

At D'Pirates visiting Naked Fish Boyz of Naked Fish Bar & Grill won a pair of cricket matches, swept both 501 games, and after dropping six games in a row, roared back to steal it in the end by taking three 301 matches and the final team 1001 contest. Naked's Jack Guerrero shot a 160 High In.

C-CHICHIRIKA

One Shot 9, Black Pearls 6

At VFW, home team One Shot won a pair of 301 matches, a wild cricket game, a 501 game, three cricket matches, and a Burma Road game for the team victory; they also took the final team 1001 match. Benedict Saurez of Buddies' Black Pearls shot a 120 High In.

Team Sang 11, Lucky Shots 4

In a home game at D'Pirates, Team Sang won a pair of 301 matches, swept both wild cricket games, won a 501 contest and swept all four cricket matches for the team victory. Sang added a pair of Burma Road win to its total. Sang's Jun Manaloto won all five matches and Lucky Shots Matrina Lisua shot a 109 High Out.

Chagi Fan 13, Gaiana C 2

At Buddies, home team Chagi Fan dropped the very first match, but went on a 10-game tear from that point. Then they dropped the final cricket match, but recovered to take both Burma Road games and the final team 1001 match. Chagi's Elton Santos and Ken Villagomez both won all five of their matches.

LADIES DIVISION

Nasty Girls 13, Spicy Girls 2

At Gaia, home team Nasty Girls took three 301 matches, swept both wild cricket games, both 501 contests, and secured the team victory after the first cricket match. They added two more cricket wins, swept both Burma Road games, and took the final team 1001 match.

Sistah! 12, Man-Amigas 3

At Buddies, home team Sistah! won three 301 matches, swept both wild cricket games, won a 501 contest, and swept all four cricket matches for the team victory; they added the final team 1001 match as well.

Fly High still on top

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Fly High improved to a perfect 4-0 record and kept the lead in the 2011 Rocball High School Spring League after a win over Kingz last week at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

Fly High defeated Kingz in overtime, outgunning the latter in four departments. Fly High scored seven aces against Kingz's three, had a 2-1 lead in xunks, 4-3 in kees, and 1-0 in goals. Leading Fly High to its unbeaten streak was Damart Teregeyo, who tallied nine points off two aces, one xunk, and one goal. Ten aces, three xunks, seven kees, and one goal were posted in the Fly High-Kingz tiff.

A victory over Watch Ur Face (1-3) this week will give Fly High a sweep of the regular season and the No. 1 seed in the playoffs. Only four teams will advance to the crossover semifinals. The No. 1 team will challenge the No. 4 squad for the first finals berth, while the No. 2 and 3 teams will duel for the remaining finals seat. Both semis pairings will have a best-of-three games format. The finals will be a best-of-five matches affair.

With its loss to Fly High, Kingz dropped to a tie for second place with Krowners (3-1). The Chiefs are in fourth place with an even 2-2 card, while the Underdogs are at the bottom of the six-team field with a dismal 0-4 record. The Chiefs and Underdogs will duel this week for their last game in the regular season.

The Chiefs notched their second win after juicing out Watch Ur Face in three sets, 50-24.

Y.J. Nakayama paced the Chiefs with 13 points off three aces, one, xunk, one kee, and a goal. The Chiefs scored 10 aces, two xunks, two kees, and a goal.

The Krowners also swept the Underdogs in three sets last week, 46-16.

Jason Limes powered the Krowners to the easy win after making three kees and an ace for eight points.

The playoff games in the spring league will start this Friday with Kingz hoping to claim back-to-back championships after ruling the fall season.

MIEKO

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Tenorio, Daly-Mancao duo prevail, too

Finishing a notch ahead of Garcia was Saipan's Lewie Tenorio, who placed 11th overall among 55 male solo finishers. Tenorio timed in at 3:35:39 to top the 40 to 44 age group, beating Guam's Matt Suess (3:40:38) and Mike Temorowski (3:43:00).

Two other Saipan riders joined the solo race with Susan Marchiti entered in the women's 40 to 44 age group and clocked in at 5:11:53. Steve Nutting raced in the 55-and-above division and completed the race in 5:24:52.

In the team event, Pacific Islands Club Saipan general manager Kieran Daly joined forces with Guam-based CNMI athlete Matt Mancao to rule the two-male division. Daly and Mancao, who were members of the CNMI Triathlon Team during the 7th Micronesian Games in Palau last year, finished the race in 3:51:07.

The duo was the lone team to complete the race under the four-hour mark, as runners-up Julian Cooper-Nurse and Art Guerrero of Guam clocked in at 4:04:16 and third placers John Jones and Jim Arenovski of Saipan logged 5:40:36.

Two-female division winner Julie Mages and Monessa Horton of Guam posted 4:38:18; co-ed champion Karly o'Neal and Joseph Dela Cruz submitted 4:09:04 and four-team top finisher Aki Ito, Mikiya Fukimoto, Isa Kawasaki, and Yoshio Ito tallied 4:28:53.

REZNE

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away from winning the medal after placing fourth with a time of 2:01.92. Southern Methodist University's Cole Tome won the event, while Wong's teammate Perry Sharify finished second. Andrew Johnson of East Carolina University beat Wong for the No. 3 spot, as the former timed in at 2:01.30. Wong's finals time was better than his preliminary race record of 2:04.44 (fifth best).

Despite failing to make it to the medal podium in Houston, Wong returned to Hawaii a winner, as his University of Hawaii-Manoa men's swimming and diving team won the overall championship in the Conference-USA Championship.

The Rainbow Warriors collected 1,018.50 points to dethrone 2010 champion Southern Methodist University (860.50 points) and gave UH-Manoa its first championship since joining the conference in 2006. For four straight years, the Rainbow Warriors finished second in the conference.

Thank you to NMASA

Meanwhile, Wong thanked NMASA and all his supporters for choosing him as the 2010 NMASA Male Athlete of the Year.

"It's an honor winning the award for the second time. I really wasn't expecting the award since I'm not on Saipan anymore, but I'm happy that I made an impact for the CNMI even for a little while," said Wong, adding that he was glad his parents received the award in his absence.

"I think parents deserve recognition for their effort in raising a child in sports," Wong added in an email to *Saipan Tribune*. "Thank you so much for choosing me for this award. The award just gets more competitive every year, and I'm really glad my performance in the Palau Micro Games was enough to win it. I think the CNMI youth is getting more exposure to different sports, and I am really glad NMASA is doing a good job in it."

LITTLE

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all-star team selection criteria.

Some key clarifications include that managers are to submit lineups 15 minutes before games time. Lineups are to include each player's full name, position, and uniform number. Game times at both Tan Ko field and Miguel "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Ballfield are to start at 9am, 12pm, and 3pm; teams are expected to arrive 30 minutes before game time.

The tiebreaker rule goes into effect if two or more teams are tied for the Top 8 places in the Major League or are tied for the Top 4 places in the Junior, Senior, and Big divisions. If this happens, a one-game tiebreaker shall be played between the tied teams to determine their regular season standing.

There will also be a single-elimination playoff format to decide divisional champions, where the losers will also vie for a consolation champion.

Only authorized personnel are allowed inside the dugouts during games. Dugouts on the third base side are designated for the home team.

Alcohol and tobacco are prohibited from all Little League activities and players are also prohibited from chewing betel nut during games. Coaches are expected to make sure trash is picked up after the completion of each game.

Managers are required to submit the full payment of SLLBA entrance fees before their team's sixth game or risk game forfeitures until the payment is fulfilled.

No SLLBA player under the age of 17 can also participate in any other baseball activity while the leagues are in season. This includes the District, Regional, and World Series tournaments.

Eligible Saipan Major League players are limited to offensive and defensive positions only. Pitching is not allowed and players will risk SLLBA expulsion from if found non-conformant. This rule is to prevent potential injuries from excessive pitching.

The SLLBA, meanwhile, will hold a special board meeting tomorrow, March 2, 6pm at the Oleai Sports Complex pavilion adjacent to Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Acting president Claudia L. Leon Guerrero said all board members are urged to attend the meeting as among the topics to be discussed are the adoption and approval of locals ground rules and corporate finances.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	42	15	.737	—
New York	30	27	.526	12
Philadelphia	30	29	.508	13
New Jersey	17	42	.288	26
Toronto	16	44	.267	27 1/2

Southeast Division

Miami	43	17	.717	—
Orlando	38	22	.633	5
Atlanta	36	23	.610	6 1/2
Charlotte	26	33	.441	16 1/2
Washington	15	43	.259	27

Central Division

Chicago	40	17	.702	—
Indiana	26	32	.448	14 1/2
Milwaukee	22	36	.379	18 1/2
Detroit	22	39	.361	20
Cleveland	11	48	.186	30

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

San Antonio	49	10	.831	—
Dallas	43	16	.729	6
New Orleans	35	26	.574	15
Memphis	33	28	.541	17
Houston	30	31	.492	20

Northwest Division

Oklahoma City	36	22	.621	—
Denver	34	26	.567	3
Portland	33	26	.559	3 1/2
Utah	32	28	.533	5
Minnesota	14	46	.233	23

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	42	19	.689	—
Phoenix	30	27	.526	10
Golden State	26	32	.448	14 1/2
L.A. Clippers	21	39	.350	20 1/2
Sacramento	14	43	.246	26

Yesterday's Games

Phoenix 110, Indiana 108, OT
L.A. Lakers 90, Oklahoma City 87
Minnesota 126, Golden State 123
Philadelphia 95, Cleveland 91
Orlando 100, Charlotte 86
Dallas 114, Toronto 96
Houston 91, New Orleans 89
San Antonio 95, Memphis 88
New York 91, Miami 86
Atlanta 90, Portland 83

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TWO

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and 2:50:00 (marathon); 9:00.00 and 10:00.00 (3,000m steeplechase); 14.20 and 14 seconds (110m and 100m hurdles); 52 and 60 seconds (400m hurdles); 1:30:00 and 1:40:00 (20km); 4:10:00 (50km); 2.10 and 1.75 meters (high jump); 5.00m and 3.50m (pole vault); 7.50m and 6.00m (long jump); 15.80m and 13.00m (triple jump), 17.00m and 15.00m (shot put), 55.00m and 50.00, (discus throw); 65.00m and 53.00m (hammer throw); and 70,00m and 50.00m (javelin throw).

IAAF will give preference to those who will meet the B standard, but others can also be considered based on their competition results, statistical data, and profile evaluation.

Once accepted at the training program, athletes will be given adequate access to facilities, coaching, and competition. Successful applicants will also get a full board and accommodation, small monthly financial allowance, and health insurance. They will also gain services from specialized coaches, travel opportunities for local competitions and IAAF institutions, and basic physiotherapeutic services.

670 Hoops Test Your 10K Fun Run

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Participants and organizers of the 670 Hoops Test Your 10K Fun Run pose for a group photo at the starting line in Micro Beach.

Second overall finisher Tom Linden is a few steps away from the finish line.

Nap Dizon leads Joel Tudela.

Top female finisher Mamiko Oshima-Berger smiles as she nears completion of the race.

Chang Wang Jang and his trademark barefoot running.

Ben Babauta breaks into a smile as he nears the finish line.

Volunteers give Brad Ruszala a grand greeting at the finish line.

Teammates Ronald Villafria, left, and Steve Pixley head to the finish line.

Teammates Irma Halaby, left, and Joshua Berger celebrate their finish.

Gasol, Lakers edge Thunder, 90-87

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Sports

Donald wins first World Golf Championship

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Mieko wins Tour de Guahan

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Mieko Carey debuted in the 2nd Tour De Guahan with a bang, topping the women's division of Sunday's bike race in record-breaking fashion.

Carey completed the 110-kilometer race (68 miles) that started and ended at Jeff's Pirates Cove in Ipan, Talofofo in three hours, 30 minutes, and 27 seconds, crushing the 3:33:12 mark 2010 women's champion Chiyo Lombardi of Guam made during the inaugural Tour De Guahan.

The Saipan biker finished about 10 minutes ahead of runner-up Ji Hyun Lee (3:40:47) of Korea, and about 30 minutes early against third placer Michelle Peariso of the U.S.

Overall, Carey finished 10th among 68 solo riders.

Australia's Malcolm Rudolph, who placed second in last year's Hell of Marianas, was the overall top finisher in 2nd Tour De Guahan, winning the men's division at the 3:04:21 mark.

The biker from the Land Down Under claimed the men's division title against fellow Australian Kyle Bateson (3:09:45) and American rider Chris Peariso (3:09:46). Besides ruling this year's race, Rudolph also broke the record in the inaugural staging of the 68-mile race. The Australia's 2011 time shattered the 3:33:03 posted by 2010 champion Jazy Garcia.

Garcia dropped to 12th place in the men's open division this year and 13th overall after submitting 3:38:08 in the weekend race.

See MIEKO on Page 26

Mieko Carey, seen here in a file photo during last year's Hell of Marianas, won Sunday's Tour De Guahan.
ROSELYN B. MONROYO

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The CNMI's Tyrone Omar, third from left, races against other Micronesian runners during the 7th Micronesian Games in Palau last year. The International Association of Athletics Federations is accepting nominations for two scholarships from Oceania Athletics Association-member nations, including the CNMI.

Two IAAF scholarships up for grabs

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI is among the Oceania Athletics Association member-nations invited to submit nominations for two International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) scholarships.

The successful nominees will be admitted at the OAA Gold Coast High Performance Training Centre and will train there for one year. The scholarship could be extended to another year depending on the results of the evaluation of the trainee.

"This [announcement of scholarship availability] is one way of enticing our children to consider various sports ventures," Northern Marianas Athletics president Ray Tebuteb said.

Deadline for submission of nominations is on March 18 and OAA had also set guidelines for eligibility.

Nominees should fall in the U23 age group and must have a performance close to the IAAF World Championship B standard. For sprinters, the qualifying B times are 10.60 seconds (men's 100m) and 11.90 seconds (women's 100m).

The complete qualifying marks in other running, throwing, and jumping events are as follows: 21.10 seconds and 24.30 seconds (men's and women's 200m); 47.50 seconds and 56.00 seconds (400m); 1:51.00 and 2:12.00 (800m); 3:48.00 and 4:20.00 (1,500m); 14:25.00 and 16:30.00 (5,000m), 30:00.00 and 34:00.00 (10,000m); 2:26:00

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Rezne makes finals of three events

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Micronesian Games Outstanding Male Athlete Rezne Wong entered three races in the Conference-USA Championship in Houston, Texas and advanced to the finals in all of them.

Wong first competed in his favorite event—the 200-yard individual medley race—and almost made it to the medal podium after placing fourth with a time of 1:51.02 seconds. He was fifth among 19 runners in the preliminary race with a time of 1:52.07 before beating his qualifying time in the finals. Wong was the second fastest University of Hawaii-Manoa swimmer in the finals, behind teammate and event winner Luca Mazzurana (1:46.67).

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Rezne Wong, seen here racing in the 200m IM event in the 7th Micronesian Games in Palau last year, made it to the finals of three events in the Conference-USA Championship in Houston, Texas last week.

Next up for Wong in the tournament held from Feb. 23 to 26 was the 400 IM where he moved into the finals after finishing third in the preliminary race. The CNMI swimmer, who won 12 gold medals in the 7th Micronesian Games in Palau last year, posted 4:03.73 to finish third behind East Carolina University's Attila Kiraly (4:01.72) and Southern Methodist University's (3:56.20). In the finals of the 400m IM, Wong dropped to seventh place, but improved his time, clocking in at 4:03.22.

The 19-year-old Wong's last event in the four-day tournament was the 200 breaststroke event and was again one step

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Little League implements emergency ground rules

By WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The Saipan Little League Baseball Association last week put emergency ground rules into effect and these will be implemented until the board adopts and approves a set of permanent local ground rules for the remainder of the season.

This comes after its leadership suspended all actions taken by the board since November 2010 because of its failure to provide proper notification of meetings since that time.

The SLLBA constitution stipulates that board meetings are to be announced within at least a seven-day notice.

Aside from declaring all actions taken null and void, the board is also suspending all Little League expenditures until the board meets and approves a spending plan that is congruent to the SLLBA constitution.

There are 15 rules that cover game venues, game times, submission of lineup sheets, game forfeitures, rescheduling, and make-up games, a season standing tiebreaker rule, playoff and championship formats, inclement weather, dugouts, use of special batters (Major League only), entrance fees, team uniforms, other restrictions, other situations or incidents, and

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